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98505

SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/18

Parliamentary Question

(Mr Philips Price)

19. 3. 52.
21. 3. 52.

Mr Philips Price asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what contribution H.M.G. has decided to make to the United Nations Plan.

Mr Selwyn Lloyd gave details of the proposed contribution

Last Paper

(Minutes)

CW 24/3

References

98505

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)	(Index)
26/3.	

Next Paper

37021

EASTERN.

E 1824/18

Parliamentary Question

* ~~82~~ 8 Mr. Philips Price,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what contribution Her Majesty's Government has decided to make to finance the plan prepared by the United Nations whereby the Relief and Works Agency shall resettle in various parts of the Middle East the 800,000 Arab refugees from Palestine. [*Wednesday 19th March.*]

Lab
Gloucester. West

ANSWERED 19 MAR 1952
REPLY ATTACHED.

I submit a draft reply.
C. Waterlow
15/3.

15/3

Approved by M/S
15/3

ARAB REFUGEES (U.N. PLAN)

8. **Mr. M. Philips Price** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what contribution Her Majesty's Government have decided to make to finance the plan prepared by the United Nations whereby the Relief and Works Agency shall re-settle in various parts of the Middle East the 800,000 Arab refugees from Palestine.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd: Her Majesty's Government are contributing £4,452,440 to the first year of the Agency's three-year relief and re-settlement programme. The interest-free development loan of £1.5 million which Her Majesty's Government have recently offered to the Jordan Government will also contribute indirectly to the carrying out of this programme.

Mr. Philips Price: While appreciating very much what is being done, may I ask whether the Government fully appreciate how important a solution of this Arab refugee question is for good relations between this country and many of the Arab countries?

Mr. Lloyd: My right hon. Friend is very well aware of that point. That is one of the reasons why we did everything we could to facilitate the passing of the Resolution at the United Nations, as a result of which we hope that this programme will be speedily implemented.

Major Beamish: As sufficient funds are now available for the beginnings of re-settlement on a large scale, does not my right hon. and learned Friend agree that, to a large extent, the success of this scheme will depend on the good will and co-operation of the Arab Governments themselves?

Mr. Lloyd: I quite agree.

2299/10
MAR 1952

RECEIVED IN C.B.
21 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
22/3.

DRAFT REPLY

Draft reply to Parliamentary Question No. 83 (Mr. Philips Price)

/Wednesday 19th March/

Her Majesty's Government are contributing £4,452,440 to the first year of the Agency's 3-Year Relief and Resettlement Programme. The interest-free development loan of £1.5 million which Her Majesty's Government have recently offered to the Jordan Government will also contribute indirectly to the carrying out of this Programme.

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

~~Q. What is the total cost of the programme, and what contributions have been offered by other Governments?~~

A. 1. The cost of the 3-Year Programme is $250 million, of which $77 million is to be spent in the first year, $118 million in the second year, and $55 million in the third year. 2. For the first year, the United States Government has offered up to $50 million, and some other Governments a total of $4.5 million.

~~Q. What do~~ Her Majesty's Government's ~~proposed to~~ contribution to the second year of the Programme?

A. 3. No decision has yet been taken on ~~this matter~~.

4. The United Kingdom's contribution of £4,452,400 is equivalent to $12,466,667 — contributions from all countries are calculated on a dollar basis.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION.

ARAB REFUGEES (U.N. PLAN)

8. **Mr. M. Philips Price** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what contribution Her Majesty's Government have decided to make to finance the plan prepared by the United Nations whereby the Relief and Works Agency shall re-settle in various parts of the Middle East the 800,000 Arab refugees from Palestine.

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Mr. Lloyd: I quite agree.

19 MAR 1952

21/3

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/19

1952

FROM

Mr Colville
P.M's Office.
~~To~~ Mr Shuckburgh.

No. –

Dated

Received in Registry— 24.3.52. 29.3.52.

Arabs Refugees.

It has been suggested to the Prime Minister that unemployment – the Lancashire textile industry, might be relieved by assisting the refugees.

References

MINUTES

See 120.

AW 1/4

(Print)

(How disposed of)

~~To~~ Mr Colville for Mr Shuckburgh. 27 March.

(Action completed)

(Index)

40429

E

I submit a draft reply to the attached letter from Mr. Colville at the Prime Minister's Office to Mr. Shuckburgh.

C. M. Waterlow.

(C.M. Waterlow)

25th March, 1952.

26/3

35

Sir W. Strang
Sir J. Bowker
E Dean
Mr. Evans. — what reply?

W.S. 25/3
R.V. 25/3
25/3
CPH 24/3

E1824/19

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

24th March, 1952.

Dear Shuckburgh

As you know, unemployment in the Lancashire textile industries has been rising. It has been suggested to the Prime Minister that something might possibly be done to help Lancashire in connection with the United States funds which have recently been made available to assist the Arab refugees. Presumably part of this money will have to be spent on clothing them. Would it be worth hinting to the Americans that the relevant orders might be placed in Lancashire? Perhaps you and Glaves-Smith at the Board of Trade, to whom I have sent a copy of this letter, will let me know whether you think this suggestion is worth exploring.

Yours ever

Jock Colville

C.A.E. Shuckburgh, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office.

RECEIVED IN C B
29 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
3/3

Registry No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

C.M.W.

Draft. Letter to:

J. Colville, Esq., C.V.O.,
10 Downing Street,
S.W.1.

(from:

C.A.E. Shuckburgh, Esq., C.M.G.)

Copy to:

F.W. Glaves-Smith, Esq.,
Board of Trade.

LETTER DESPATCHED BY PRIVATE SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT

P.V.U. 28/3/52.

20/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(27274) Wt. 22831—216 325m 11/50 G.S. St.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

27th March, 1952.

You wrote to me on the 24th March to enquire whether some of the funds which the United States are providing for the Arab refugees might be spent on the purchase of clothing for the refugees in Lancashire.

2. The position is that the contributions made by governments to the Arab refugees are paid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which is responsible for the relief and resettlement of these refugees. Orders are placed by the Agency and not by individual governments.

3. The Agency's relief programme is planned on a scale involving provision of only the bare necessities of life, in order that as high a proportion of its funds as possible may be available for expenditure on resettlement projects. In these circumstances, virtually no clothing is provided under the relief programme, and the Agency is relying on meeting the refugees' needs for clothing, as far as possible, from gifts made through voluntary societies. In this country the British Red Cross Society is generously co-operating by packing and shipping clothing received as a result of appeals made by the Agency.

4. I am sending a copy of this letter to Glaves-Smith at the Board of Trade.

C.A.S.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

27th March, 1952.

EE1824/19

OUTFILE

You wrote to me on the 24th March to enquire whether some of the funds which the United States are providing for the Arab refugees might be spent on the purchase in Lancashire of clothing for the refugees.

The position is that the contributions made by governments to the Arab refugees are paid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which is responsible for the relief and resettlement of these refugees. Orders are placed by the Agency and not by individual governments.

The Agency's relief programme is planned on a scale involving provision of only the bare necessities of life, in order that as high a proportion of its funds as possible may be available for expenditure on resettlement projects. In these circumstances, virtually no clothing is provided under the relief programme, and the Agency is relying on meeting the refugees' needs for clothing, as far as possible, from gifts made through voluntary societies. In this country the British Red Cross Society is generously co-operating by packing and shipping clothing received as a result of appeals made by the Agency.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Glaves-Smith at the Board of Trade.

C. A. E. SHUCKBURG.

J.R. Colville Esq., C.V.O.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/20

Board of Trade.

Comm'd.

29. 3. 52.

31. 3. 52.

Lancashire textiles for refugees.

The President of the Board of Trade thinks it important that U.N.R.W.A should be persuaded to spend part of H.M.G.'s contribution in Lancashire. (Addressed to Mr Oates, No 10 from Mr Denman)

Last Paper

(Minutes)

Draft submitted.

MES again ad.

C Waterlow 1/4

CW 5/4

References

/19.

23

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dfy Mr Oates, No 10, from Mr Wilford. 2 April

(Opy) Mr Denman. B/T. 2/4.

Dfy Sir H. Knight, Beirut from Miss Waterlow. 5 April

(Action completed) 7/4

(Index) 2/4

Next Paper

37021

Comp. 1

Eastern Dept

for urgent tks.

29/3

With the Compliments

of the

Private Secretary

E 1824/20

BOARD OF TRADE

29.3.52.

28th March, 1952.

Dear Oates,

You will remeber that Colville wrote to Shuckburgh on the 24th March about a suggestion that some of the funds which the United States are providing for Arab refugees might be spent on the purchase in Lancashire of clothing for them. I am sorry that we have been a few days commenting on this suggestion, but the President has of course been considering it in the wider aspect of the Debate in the House on the state of the textile industry.

The President appreciates the difficulties set out in Shuckburgh's letter to Colville of 27th March, in that orders are placed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and not by individual Governments, and that the refugee needs for clothing are met as far as possible from gifts made through voluntary societies. But he does think it important that although the amount of money involved is not very large, we should seize every opportunit to better the present position in Lancashire. He wonders in particular

(a) whether we could not exercise some presure on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to secure the spending in Lancashire of at least some of the contribution of £4m which H.M. Government is I understand to make to this Organization.

(b) Whether we could not ask the Director of the Agency an Englishman, General Sir Alexander Galloway, what purchases he proposes to make over the next year. The President wonders for example even assuming that we cannot persuade them to order clothing in Lancashi whether they could not place their orders for tentage.

/We are

P. G. Oates, Esq.
10 Downing Street. S.W.1.

We are in touch with the Foreign Office about these suggestions and I am sending a copy of this letter to Wilford.

Yours sincerely,

G. R. DENMAN

Registry
No. EE 1824/20

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

C.M.W.

Draft. Letter to:

Mr. P.G. Oates,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

(from:
Mr. ~~Shuckburgh~~ Wilford)

Copy to:

Mr. G. R. Denman
Board of Trade.

LETTER DESPATCHED BY PRIVATE SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT
P.V.U. 4/4/52

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

2nd April, 1952.

OUTFILE

Denman at the Board of Trade has sent me a copy of his letter of March 28th to you about the suggestion that some of the funds which the United States are providing for Arab refugees might be spent in Lancashire.

2. We will certainly ask Sir Henry Knight, our representative with the Agency, to take up with the Director (who is, incidentally, an American, Mr. John Blandford - General Galloway is the Agency's representative in Jordan) the possibility of his procuring in Lancashire such quantities of clothing and tentage as may be provided for in his programme. We will also mention the matter to James Keen, the Deputy Director of the Agency (who is English) when he passes through London shortly.

3. As regards tents, you should know that last year the Agency had great difficulty in procuring their full requirements from this country or any other source. They are now planning to set up a tent factory in Jordan which would utilize local raw materials and give employment to some of the refugees.

4. I am sending a copy of this letter to Denman at the Board of Trade.

Wt. 11647/234 250m 7/51 V.P.Co. 51-8078

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

2nd April, 1952.

(EE 1824/20)

OUTFILE

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I am sending a copy of this letter to Denman at the Board of Trade.

(SD.) K. M. WILFORD.

P.G. Oates, Esq.,
10, Downing Street.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 1824/20) 5th April, 1952.

OUTFILE

It has recently been suggested to the Prime Minister that one way of helping to alleviate the rising unemployment in the Lancashire textile industries might be to persuade UNRWA to procure in Lancashire such quantities of clothing and tentage as are provided for in the relief programme. We have pointed out that the Agency provides virtually no clothing under the relief programme, since it is obliged to spend its limited relief funds on other even more essential commodities and services and that it looks, therefore, to the Voluntary Societies to meet the refugees' need for clothing as far as possible. We also explained that since the Agency had great difficulty last year in procuring their full requirements of tentage from this country or any other source, they are now planning (according to what James Keen told us when he was recently here) to set up a tent factory in Jordan.

2. The President of the Board of Trade is, however, pressing strongly that no possible source of orders for Lancashire, even though the amount of money involved may be small, should be overlooked; and we have, therefore, agreed to ask you to take this matter up with the Agency. We will also mention it to Mr. Keen when we see him on his way back from New York.

3. Meanwhile, we are trying to find for Mr. Keen an expert to advise the Agency on the establishment of a tent factory, and we will also ask the Board of Trade to let us know what the present position is regarding the procurement of tents in this country.

(C. M. Waterlow)

Sir Henry Knight, K.C.S.I.,
C.S.I., C.I.E.,
British Legation,
Beirut.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1824/21

FROM

F.O. Minute
(Mr Evans)

No. —

Dated 26. 3. 52.

Received in Registry— 28. 3. 52.

Palestine refugees.

Gives the history of the problem of the Arab Refugees, as from the hostilities in 1948. to date.

References

MINUTES

This a revised version (to bring it up to date) of an earlier paper.

Mr Pirie-Gordon may care to see

[illegible] 2/4

Very interesting indeed. I would be most grateful to have a copy to keep in the Department.

Christopher Pirie-Gordon
4.4.52.

CW 5/4

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

[illegible] 7/4

(Index)

[illegible] 28/4

40429

PALESTINE REFUGEES

E 1824/21

The problem of Arab refugees is one of the most tragic consequences of the Palestine conflict. For the first few months, both during and after the hostilities, the Arab refugees were cared for by the neighbouring Arab States. It was soon realised, however, that the problem was too great for their limited resources and in August 1948, the United Nations Mediator organised a Disaster Relief Project. In November of the same year, the United Nations General Assembly, recognising the magnitude of the problem, established the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees and this Organisation, with the co-operation of certain Voluntary Agencies, carried on relief work until April 1950. The United Nations Economic Survey Mission (Clapp Mission) visited the Middle East in the autumn of 1949 and as a result of its recommendations, the General Assembly in November 1949 authorised the establishment of a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. This Agency took over on May 1st,1950. Its Director, is assisted by an Advisory Commission on which Her Majesty's Government are represented. The first Director was a Canadian (General Kennedy). The present Director is an American (Mr. Blandford). Her Majesty's Government are represented on the Advisory Commission by Sir Henry Knight.

2. The Palestine refugees constitute not only a great humanitarian problem but also a grave political problem, the solution of which is essential to the stability of the Middle East. A breakdown in relief arrangements in Jordan, where the refugees number one third of the total population, would undoubtedly result in serious disturbances and probably the collapse of the present régime. The effect of a breakdown in Lebanon might also be serious. Failure to make early progress with the resettlement of refugees might similarly have serious consequences. Approximately 850,000 refugees at present receive relief (the number of recipients was at one stage over 1,000,000). Of these 850,000, about 450,000 are in Jordan, 200,000 in the Gaza area, 120,000 in the Lebanon, 80,000 in Syria and 4,000 in Iraq. About a third of the refugees live in camps.

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RECEIVED IN C.O.
28 MAR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

3. Prior to May 1st, 1950, when the present Agency assumed its responsibilities, international assistance took the form of direct relief, which, however necessary as an emergency measure, has two serious disadvantages. Firstly, it is demoralising in the long run for the refugees themselves, and secondly, it does not bring a final solution any nearer. The general Assembly, therefore, authorised the present Agency not only to continue direct relief, but to carry out a programme of relief works to employ the refugees and to add to the productive capacity of the countries concerned. The Agency was also required to consult with interested Middle East Governments on preparatory measures against the time when international assistance stopped. In November 1950, the General Assembly extended the scope of the Agency's work to cover projects for the permanent resettlement of refugees in Arab countries and in Israel.

4. The relevant Resolution, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the Delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. In response to this appeal for additional funds the United States Government offered to double their contribution to the current year's programme. Subsequently Her Majesty's Government increased their contribution from the equivalent of $ 8m. to $16.4 (inclusive of a £1.5m loan to Jordan). Both Her Majesty's Government and the United States Government also indicated that it was their policy, subject to the approval of Parliament and Congress respectively, to continue to assist the Middle East Governments to solve the problem.

5. The Director of the Agency subsequently embarked on negotiations with the Arab Governments on the basis of a tentative 3-year programme of resettlement and diminishing relief. Hitherto programmes had been on a yearly basis. The broad objective of the new programme

/is to

is to help the refugees to obtain adequate housing and employment. The refugees would be transferred from camps and temporary shelter to suburban housing projects and rural villages. They would move from the ration line to self-supporting employment. The cost of such a programme, apart from the cost of direct relief on a diminishing scale which will amount to about $50 million, will be about $200 million over 3 years including the current year. It is assumed that the resettlement programme will be paralleled by a programme of general economic development financed by the local governments, assisted by loans from the International Bank and other sources.

6. This programme was accepted in principle by the Arab League subject to a number of conditions, one of the most important of which is that each Arab Government would remain free to decide the detailed projects to be carried out in its territory. It was subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in January 1952.

7. It remains for the League's general acceptance to be translated into terms of concrete resettlement projects in the various Arab countries concerned, and the Director is continuing his negotiations to this end with the individual governments. Unfortunately, public opinion, particularly in Syria where it is hoped to settle a large number of refugees, is thought to be not yet ready to accept the open abandonment of refugee repatriation, and the Arab League decision has therefore not been published. The Director of the Agency is now negotiating with the Head of the Syrian State and Colonel Shishakli who have undertaken to give sympathetic consideration to the Agency's proposals. The Syrians have not yet replied. There are however indications that they may agree to resettle the refugees now in Syria and to receive refugees from Gaza and Lebanon (but apparently not from Jordan). The Egyptian Lebanese and Jordan Governments are encouraging the Syrians to respond favourably to the Agency's proposals. The Jordan Government have agreed to cooperate with the Agency.

/8.

8. Although not directly concerned with the political aspects of the Palestine problem, the Agency has been seriously handicapped in its work by the absence of a political settlement between Israel and the Arab States, and in particular by (i) the unwillingness of the Israel Government to accept the United Nations decision that refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so, and the refusal (until recently) of the Israel Government to pay compensation to refugees for abandoned property except as part of a general settlement, (ii) the unwillingness, until recently, of the Arab states (with the exception of Jordan) to agree to the resettlement of refugees in Arab countries, (iii) the firm belief of the refugees, which is only now beginning to weaken, that they will one day return to their former homes in Palestine. In these circumstances little could be achieved either by repatriation or resettlement in Arab countries. The resettlement possibilities of Jordan, which has from the first been prepared to accept Palestine refugees for resettlement are limited. Nevertheless, as indicated above steady progress towards a solution, culminating in the general acceptance of the principle of resettlement, has been made.

9. Financial difficulties have also proved a very serious handicap. Of the $54 m. required for the July 1950 - June 1951 programme, not more than $38 m. (excluding contributions in kind and in direct aid and services by the Middle East Governments amounting to about $4 m.) has been subscribed. Many Governments have contributed nothing or very little. As a result the Agency has at no time had adequate working capital. The financial embarrassment of the Agency was increased by the fact that, while the $54 m. programme was planned on the assumption made by the Clapp Mission that some 650,000 refugees would need assistance, the Agency in fact took over about 950,000 refugees. The financial prospects for the current year's programme (which was planned at the

1950 session of the General Assembly on the basis that $20 m. would be required for relief and $30 m. for resettlement, but which, as part of the 3-year programme approved at the 1951-2 session will now cost about $75 m.) are more encouraging as a result of the United States Government's offer to contribute up to $50 m. Other governments have offered to contribute approximately $17 m., including the equivalent of $12.4 m. by Her Majesty's Government.

10. Reference should also be made to the problem of destitute Palestine Arabs, who technically are not refugees. These people, who number about 120,000, are still living in their original homes in the Gaza area and in Jordanian villages on the Israel frontier but have been cut off from their lands and are unable to earn their living. The Agency has in the past been pressed by the Egyptian authorities (responsible for the Gaza area) and the Jordan Government to provide for them. As they are not refugees, the Agency is not authorised to do so; and the Egyptian and Jordan Governments have been informed that responsibility for the relief of these is theirs. Some assistance is however being provided by U.N.I.C.E.F. and in Gaza by the American Middle East Relief Agency and the Egyptian administration.

11. Despite these difficulties, the Agency has succeeded in its immediate task of providing relief, and also to a much lesser extent, of providing work. Virtually no progress has, however, been made with its latest task, that of resettlement. The health and general condition of the refugees, in spite of the conditions under which a great number of them live, are better than those of many of the normal inhabitants. Owing to the shortage of funds, the full works programme, which is more costly than straight relief, has not been possible. Nevertheless, the limited works projects have served as a useful lead-in to resettlement projects. The Agency has gained the confidence and co-operation of the Arab Governments and thereby contributed greatly to overcoming Arab reluctance to a policy of resettlement. It has also reduced by approximately half the number of

internationally recruited staff and, by employing refugees, has saved administrative expenses. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the Agency has not exploited the resettlement possibilities of Jordan, where the Government have always been prepared to accept refugees on a permanent basis. These possibilities are, however, extremely limited, at least as far as short-term projects are concerned. Moreover, not less than 100,000 Palestinians have already re-established themselves by their own means in Jordan territory. Possibilities in Jordan continue to be investigated. The Egyptian Government have agreed to the resettlement of 50,000 refugees in Sinai, and the water resources of the area were examined by geologists. Unfortunately the results have been discouraging. Openings for refugee resettlement in Libya are also being explored.

12. Possibilities of resettlement undoubtedly exist in Arab countries, particularly in Syria (and also in Iraq, though the climatic and social conditions are not so favourable there and opportunities depend on large scale economic development and are thus longer-term). All these countries are in need of development and the economic potential of some of them is considerable. With some notable exceptions (Egypt and Lebanon), they are under-populated. Israel, on the other hand, is, according to Israel spokesmen, no longer capable of absorbing any appreciable number of these refugees. It is in the interests of the refugees themselves that the vast majority of them should, without prejudice to their right to return to their homes and to receive compensation for their properties, settle among their brethren in Arab countries rather than in Israel or (as is sometimes suggested) in parts of the world far from their original homes.

13. As regards compensation for Arab property to which the Arab Governments and the refugees themselves naturally attach

the greatest importance, the Palestine Conciliation Commission, in accordance with 1950's Resolution of the General Assembly, set up special machinery to deal with the assessment and payment of compensation. The Israel Government have reaffirmed their willingness to pay compensation for abandoned lands and have offered to pay a sum on account into the Reintegration Fund. Last autumn they indicated that they would be prepared to negotiate with the United Nations for a solution of this problem outside a general peace settlement. The offer is, however, subject to certain conditions, one of which is that the Israel Government should be given international financial aid to meet the heavy cost of compensation. Although this decision represents an advance, the difficulties which still remain to be solved are very great.

14. In spite of the progress made however serious difficulties remain. The United Nations 3 year plan assumed that the resettlement projects would be paralleled by a programme of general economic development financed by Middle East Governments, assisted by loans from the International Bank and other sources. Before large numbers of refugees can be absorbed the economic resources of the countries concerned must be developed. It is only in Iraq and, to a lesser extent, in Jordan that such development is in hand. In the former this has been made possible by greatly increased oil royalties and the establishment of the Iraq Development Board, and in the latter by interest free loans from Her Majesty's Government and Great Aid assistance by the United States Government. Syria, where considerable economic resources await development and where the physical opportunities of early refugee resettlement are greatest, has no oil revenues to draw on, and the offers of assistance for economic development so far made by the International Bank and the United States Government have not proved sufficiently attractive to the Syrian Government. Her Majesty's Government have so far been

/unable

unable to offer financial aid for economic development in Syria.

15. The lack of progress in the economic development field in Syria is unfortunate, particularly as, owing to the uncertain internal political situation in the country, Syrian co-operation with UNRWA may be withheld or given on a totally inadequate scale. Increased economic activity in Syria, which would result from a substantial development programme, would have the effect of creating a demand for labour that could not be satisfied within the country and would attract refugees unobstrusively and without raising political issues.

16. The Iraqi 5 year Development Programme, which will cost about £150 million, is expected to reveal a shortage of labour in the country, particularly of skilled and semi-skilled workers. Opportunities of refugee absorption are thus likely to develop. There are, in fact, reports that some 2,500 refugees have recently infiltrated from Jordan and Syria and that they have succeeded in finding some employment in Bagdad. The demand for labour in Iraq, however, is not likely to be keenly felt for at least three years and it may be as much as ten years before Palestine refugees can be resettled on the new land which is being developed by large-scale irrigation projects. Landless Iraqis will naturally be given priority over Palestine refugees. The main hope for the early resettlement of Palestine refugees thus lies in Syria.

17. Her Majesty's Government have spared no effort to find a solution to this grave problem. They were first in the field with assistance amounting to £1.1 m. to the Disaster Relief Project and the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees in 1948, and have contributed over £3 m. (including a £1 m. loan to Jordan) to the Agency's 1950-51 programme, and have offered nearly £6 m. (including a £1.5 m. loan to Jordan) to the 1951-52 programme.

/By

By the summer of next year they will have contributed over £10 m. Valuable technical assistance has also been made available by the secondment of experts from the British Middle East Office. Her Majesty's Government have continuously urged the Middle East Governments concerned to seek a just and practicable issue to this great human problem. They have also wherever possible urged member Governments of the United Nations and non-member Governments to assist with funds.

(T. E. Evans)
Middle East Secretariat

26th March, 1952

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/22

FROM

F.O. Minute
(Mr Evans)

No.

Dated 25. 3. 52.

Received in Registry— 2. 4. 52

Arab Refugees.

Attaches a paper prepared for the information of the Prime Minister at the request of the Private Secretary's office.

References

MINUTES

See minutes within.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Action completed)	(Index)
4/4	

40429

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

to enter.

Palestine Refugees

25

The attached paper was prepared at short notice for the information of the Prime Minister at the request of the Private Secretary's office.

[signature] 25/3

M. Ross.
Sir J Bowker) may care to see.

Thank you
[signature]
26/3

Thanks. I am keeping the copy -
[signature]
26/3

[signature] 4/4

[copy]

PALESTINE REFUGEES

E/1824/22

There are about 850,000 Palestine refugees. Nearly 4 years have elapsed since they left their homes. They are distributed approximately as follows:-

450,000	Jordan
200,000	Gaza Area
120,000	Lebanon
80,000	Syria
4,000	Iraq

2. They are being maintained by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Relief arrangements are generally satisfactory. Little or no progress has, however, been made with resettlement. The reasons for this are:-

(a) Political. The unwillingness of the Israel Government to accept the United Nations decision that refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so; the unwillingness, until recently, of the Arab States (with the exception of Jordan) to agree to the resettlement of refugees in Arab countries.

(b) Financial. The funds hitherto available to UNRWA have been inadequate. The majority of member governments of the United Nations have contributed little or nothing, and programmes have been approved on a yearly basis.

(c) Practical. Egypt and Lebanon are overpopulated and cannot accept the refugees on a permanent basis. The Gaza strip has no resources capable of development and no refugees can be resettled there. The economic possibilities of Jordan are very limited and, even when these are fully developed, not more than one-third of the refugees now in Jordan can be permanently re-settled there. About 600,000 of the refugees will thus have to be transferred before they can be absorbed.

/3. ..

RECEIVED IN C.B.
-2 ... 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
5/4

3. Great possibilities of resettlement exist, however, in Syria. In Iraq too there are possibilities, though these depend on large scale economic development and are thus a longer term. The climatic and social conditions in Iraq are also not so favourable.

4. These obstacles are being gradually overcome and the outlook is now more favourable than at any time since the refugee problem came into being.

(a) Political. Her Majesty's Government have consistently taken the view that it is in the interests of the refugees themselves that the vast majority of them should, without prejudice to their right to return to their homes and receive compensation for their properties, settle among their brethren in Arab countries rather than in Israel. This point of view has now been more or less accepted by the Arab League and the majority of the Arab States.

(b) Financial. In January this year the United Nations General Assembly approved a 3 year programme of relief and resettlement, costing $250 million. The United States Government have offered to contribute up to $50 million to the first year's operations. Her Majesty's Government will contribute the equivalent of $12.4 million and, in addition, have granted Jordan an interest free loan of £1.5 million.* Other Governments have offered approximately $5 million.

(c) Practical. It remains for Arab acceptance of the principle of resettlement to be translated into terms of concrete projects in the various Arab countries, particularly Syria. UNRWA are now negotiating with the

/Head

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* By the end of the Agency's financial year in June Her Majesty's Government will have contributed about £10 million for the relief and resettlement of Palestine refugees as compared with the equivalent of £31 million contributed by the United States Government.

Head of the Syrian State, who has undertaken to give sympathetic consideration to the Agency's proposals. The Syrians have not yet replied. There are, however, indications that they may agree to resettle the refugees now in Syria and to receive refugees from Gaza and from the Lebanon (but apparently not from Jordan). The Egyptian, Lebanese and Jordan Governments are encouraging the Syrians to respond favourably to the Agency's proposals. The Jordan Government have agreed to co-operate with the Agency.

5. In spite of the progress made however serious difficulties remain. The United Nations 3 year plan assumed that the resettlement projects would be paralleled by a programme of general economic development financed by Middle East Governments, assisted by loans from the International Bank and other sources. Before large numbers of refugees can be absorbed the economic resources of the countries concerned must be developed. It is only in Iraq and, to a lesser extent, in Jordan that such development is in hand. In the former this has been made possible by greatly increased oil royalties and the establishment of the Iraq Development Board, and in the latter by interest free loans from Her Majesty's Government and Grant Aid assistance by the United States Government. Syria, where considerable economic resources await development and where the physical opportunities of early refugee resettlement are greatest, has no oil revenues to draw on, and the offers of assistance for economic development so far made by the International Bank and the United States Government have not proved sufficiently attractive to the Syrian Government. Her Majesty's Government have so far been unable to offer financial aid for economic development in Syria.

6. The lack of progress in the economic development field in Syria is unfortunate, particularly as, owing to the uncertain internal political situation in the country, Syrian co-operation with UNRWA may be withheld or given on a totally inadequate

/ scale.

scale. Increased economic activity in Syria, which would result from a substantial development programme, would have the effect of creating a demand for labour that could not be satisfied within the country and would attract refugees unobtrusively and without raising political issues.

7. The Iraqi 5 year Development Programme, which will cost about £150 million, is expected to reveal a shortage of labour in the country, particularly of skilled and semi-skilled workers. Opportunities of refugee absorption are thus likely to develop. There are, in fact, reports that some 2,500 refugees have recently infiltrated from Jordan and Syria and that they have succeeded in finding some employment in Bagdad. The demand for labour in Iraq, however, is not likely to be keenly felt for at least three years and it may be as much as ten years before Palestine refugees can be resettled on the new land which is being developed by large-scale irrigation projects. Landless Iraqis will naturally be given priority over Palestine refugees. The main hope for the early resettlement of Palestine refugees thus lies in Syria.

(T. E. Evans)
Middle East Secretariat

25th March, 1952.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/23

Mr Denman,
Board of Trade.
to Mr Leishman.

15. 4. 52.
17. 4. 52.

Lancashire textiles for refugees.

The President of the Board of Trade has put forward the suggestion that additional aid might be given to the refugees — the shape of blankets and clothing.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

CW 19/4

References.

-/20

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dfg) Mr Denman, B/Trade for Mr Leishman 18 April.

Compo) Mr Oates, No 10. Sir H. Knight, Beirut. 18 April

(Action completed.) [signature] 21/4

(Index.) [signature] 28/4

Next Paper.

—/28 type 21/5

30471 F.O.P.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

(44085) Wt.31461/245 220,000 11/51 A.&E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

Minutes.

I submit a draft reply to Mr. Denman's letter of April 15th (attached). I have discussed the contents of this letter with Mr. O. L. Williams at the Treasury, who is in full agreement with the line taken in our reply. Unless we wish to put up a case to the Treasury on the lines suggested by the Board of Trade (which I submit that we do not), there is no need for us to bring the Treasury any further into this correspondence.

C.M. Waterlow.

(C. M. Waterlow)

16th April, 1952.

I agree [signature] 16/4

Mr. Leishman

[initials] 16/10

Sec of State

I think you should see this. It was Mr Soames' idea, I believe, in the first place.

CBS 16/4.

[signature] April 17

M.E. Secretariat

for obs. & draft reply please.

F.J. Leishman 15/iv

E 1824/23

BOARD OF TRADE,
HORSE GUARDS AVENUE, ~~MILLBANK~~,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

15th April, 1952.

Dear Leishman,

We had a word on the telephone last Thursday about the suggestion that some of the funds at the disposal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency might be spent in Lancashire.

The President was glad to see from Wilford's letter to Oates of the 2nd April that we are taking up with our representative with the Agency the possibility of procuring in Lancashire such quantities of clothing and tentage as may be provided in the programme. The President hopes that we will use this channel of persuasion as vigorously as we can.

There remains the President's suggestion, recorded in my letter of 28th March to Oates, that we might exercise some pressure on the Agency to secure the spending in Lancashire of at least some of the contribution of £4 million which H.M. Government is I understand to make to this organisation. Even if this is not practicable the President wonders whether we could not offer a certain amount of aid in future in the shape of blankets and clothing. Or alternatively whether we might not offer now aid additional to the £4 million in blankets and clothing, which would of course allow us to place orders now in Lancashire and Yorkshire (which is also hard hit).

I should be grateful if you could take these points into consideration, bearing in mind that the Prime Minister has recently mentioned this matter to the President. I am sending a copy of this letter to Oates at No.10.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Denman

(G. R. DENMAN)

F. J. Leishman, Esq., M.B.E.

Registry No. EE 1824/~~20~~ 23

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

C.M.W.

Draft. Letter to:

Mr. G.R. Denman,
Board of Trade.

(from:

Mr. F. J. Leishman)

Copy to:

P.G. Oates, Esq.,
10 Downing Str.,
S.W.1.

and, with ref, to Sir H. Knight, Beirut.

eWatson 16/4

RECEIVED IN DIVISION 17 APR 1952 SENT TO TYPE 18/4 DESPATCHED

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Wt. 11647/234 250m 7/51 V.P.Co. 51-8078

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

April, 1952.

OUTFILE

18/10
18/12

I am replying to your letter of April 15th about the suggestion that some of the funds at the disposal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees might be spent in Lancashire.

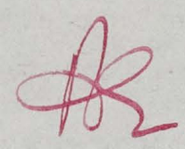
2. We have already asked Sir Henry Knight to take up with the Director of the Agency the possibility of his procuring in Lancashire such textiles as may be provided for in the Agency's relief programme; and we will certainly take any further opportunity which occurs to press this point vigorously.

3. I am afraid, however, that we cannot agree to put pressure on the Agency to divert to the purchase of textiles in this country any sums additional to those provided for such purchases in the current programme. As you may know, the solution of the Arab refugee problem is a matter of great political importance if the stability of the Middle East region is to be secured and a dangerous potential source of trouble eliminated. We have, therefore, fully supported the Agency's policy of allocating its ~~limited~~ funds as far as possible to resettlement projects which will eventually take the refugees off the relief line; and we have, in fact, stipulated that ~~the major~~ a large part of Her Majesty's Government's contribution (which is, of course, borne on the Foreign Office Vote) should be spent on such projects. The same considerations will necessarily apply for any further contribution ~~borne on the Foreign Office Vote~~ which we may decide to make to the Agency.

/4. ...

4. If, however, the Board of Trade are prepared to finance from their Vote a gift of textiles from Lancashire and Yorkshire for the Arab refugees as an addition to H.M.G.'s contribution to the Agency, we should, of course, welcome it, since, as explained in Shuckburgh's letter of March 27th to Colville, there is a real need among the refugees for more clothing than the Agency is able to provide.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Oates at No. 10.



NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUTFILE

(EE 1824/23)

18th April, 1952.

I am replying to your letter of 15th April about the suggestion that some of the funds at the disposal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees might be spent in Lancashire.

2. We have already asked Sir Henry Knight to take up with the Director of the Agency the possibility of his procuring in Lancashire such textiles as may be provided for in the Agency's relief programme; and we will certainly take any further opportunity which occurs to press this point vigorously.

3. I am afraid, however, that we cannot agree to put pressure on the Agency to divert to the purchase of textiles in this country any sums additional to those provided for such purchases in the current programme. As you may know, the solution of the Arab refugee problem is a matter of great political importance if the stability of the Middle East region is to be secured and a dangerous potential source of trouble eliminated. We have, therefore, fully supported the Agency's policy of allocating its funds as far as possible to resettlement projects which will

/eventually

G. R. Denman, Esq.,
Board of Trade.

eventually take the refugees off the relief line; and we have, in fact, stipulated that a large part of Her Majesty's Government's contribution (which is, of course, borne on the Foreign Office Vote) should be spent on such projects. The same considerations will necessarily apply for any further contribution which we may decide to make to the Agency.

4. If, however, the Board of Trade are prepared to finance from their Vote a gift of textiles from Lancashire and Yorkshire for the Arab refugees as an addition to Her Majesty's Government's contribution to the Agency, we should, of course, welcome it. As explained in Shuckburgh's letter of 27th March to Colville, there is a real need among the refugees for more clothing than the Agency is able to provide.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Oates at No. 10.

File Number:—

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AME RICAN.

1952

PEE

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

PME

E E 1824/24

Sir H. Kugert
Beirut
to Miss Waterlow

AC. 204.

16. 4. 52.
23. 4. 52.

British Textiles for refugees.

Informs UNRWA that H.M.G. are anxious that no opportunity should be lost of purchasing its textile requirements from the U.K. rather than anywhere else.
(add to Blandford of 16th Apl.)

Last Paper

(Minutes)

CW 24/4

References

EE 1824/20.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

34092

UNCLASSIFIED
(AC 204)

Miss C.M. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

E 1824/24

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF

Sir Henry Knight

(Ref. your EE 1824/20 of 5th April, 1952)

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Legation
Beirut

16th April, 1952.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
23 APR 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
23/4.

(AC204)

Beirut 16.4.52

My dear Blandford.

Owing to the recession in the textile industries in England, I am instructed to say that H.M.G are anxious that UNRWA should lose no opportunity of purchasing it's textile requirements from the U.K. rather than elsewhere, and I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible for communication to the Foreign Office what it may be possible to do in this matter.

I understand that the Foreign Office has probably discussed the question with Keen in London recently,.

yours sincerely,

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/25

1952

FROM

Parliamentary Question (Mr Nicholls.)

No.

Dated

Received in Registry— 30.4.52. 2.5.52.

Mr Nicholls asked the Secretary of State what is the British representation on U.N.R.W.A.P.R.

Mr Eden replied - Sir H. Knight, assisted by a Second Secretary of the Foreign Service.

REFERENCES

MINUTES

CW 5/5

Personal Dept to see.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)	(Index)
14/5.	30/5

38679

(Middle East Secretariat)

Parliamentary Question

E

EQ1824/25

ADVANCE NOTICE

12.

U
Peterborough

ANSWERED 30 APR 1952
REPLY ATTACHED.

Mr. H. Nicholls:- To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the British representation on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees. (Wednesday, 30th April.)

I attach a draft reply.

C. Waterlow.

29th April, 1952.

29/4

R. J. Bowker
29/4

MES
para
any progress?
250 mill $ fund

(81)

U.N. REFUGEES AGENCY
(U.K. REPRESENTATION)

12. **Mr. Nicholls** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the British representation on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Mr. Eden: Her Majesty's Government are represented on the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees by Sir Henry Knight, who has the status of an Ambassador. He is assisted by an officer of the rank of Second Secretary in the Foreign Service.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
- 2 MAY 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
51
5

DRAFT REPLY

MR H. NICHOLLS

30th April 1952.

Her Majesty's Government is represented on the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees by Sir Henry Knight, who has the status of an Ambassador. He is assisted by an officer of ~~First Secretary rank.~~ Second the rank of Second Secretary in the Foreign Service.

BN.

Notes for Supplementaries.

1. Sir Henry Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., has had a distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service, from which he retired in 1946. From 1939 to 1945 he served as Adviser to the Governor of Bombay, in charge of Finance, Agriculture, Development, and Food and Civil Supplies. He acted as Governor of Bombay in 1945 and, consequently, as Governor of Madras, Burma and Assam in 1946. From 1947 to 1949 he

/held a .....

held a temporary appointment in the Ministry of National Insurance.

2. The Advisory Commission of the U.N.R.W.A. consists of Representatives, with the status of Ambassador, of France, Turkey, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Its function is to advise and assist the Director of the Agency, who is a United Nations official, in the execution of the programme ; and in particular, with the Director, to consult with Middle East Governments concerned on the selection, planning and execution of projects.

3. UNRWA 250 million dollar fund

Nothing further to report since reply to Mr Thomas Reid (Swindon) on 7th April.

attached (cdn 2292)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION – The Syrians will probably agree to resettle 500,000 refugees + are negotiating to this end, but have particularly requested that this should not be announced. We are asking Treasury for authority to make a a second year contribution.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1824/27

FROM Major John Boyd-Carpenter M.P. to Mr. Nutting.

No. —

Dated 6th

Received in Registry— 13th } May.

Encloses a letter from a constituent, Miss C.M. SAVAGE about U.N.R.W.A. work and the Arab refugees.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

~~Dft Mr J. Boyd-Carpenter MP from Mr Nutting 13 May~~

MES

(Action completed)	(Index)
[illegible] 9/7	[illegible] 18/7

MINUTES

B.U. 29/5
(for Sir H Knight on return)

[illegible] 21/5

Pl. see Sir Henry & Lady Knight's Minutes, attached. Do you think it worth writing again to Major Boyd-Carpenter? I am inclined to think that there is little further that we can usefully say.

C. Waterlow
3/7

Miss Jose. MJ 4/7

Ov 4/7.

39984

1. Mr. Killick
2. M.E.S.

Telephone,
Whitehall 1234.

Treasury Chambers,
Great George Street,
S.W.1.

6th May, 1952.

FE 1824/27.

My Dear Anthony,

I am enclosing a letter received from a constituent, Miss C.M. Savage of 8 Knights Park, Kingston. I would be most grateful for your comments.

Yours ever

John Boyd-Carpenter

JOHN BOYD-CARPENTER, MP

Anthony Nutting, Esq., M.P.,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

COPY
(EE 1824/27)

8, Knights Park,

Kingston-on-Thames.

4th May, 1952.

Dear Major Boyd-Carpenter,

Arab Refugees.

You will remember that I have more than once written you about these unfortunate people. I think you ought to know something which came to my notice through a letter written to me by Miss Olive Britton. For the past year or two, Miss Britton has worked under the auspices of U.N.W.R.A. to establish bee-keeping as a source of income for the Refugees. She has done her work efficiently, and has been keen and sympathetic, and was getting along nicely, so that a little glimmer of hope had been lighted for one or two Arab bee-keepers through her encouragement, and with U.N.W.R.A. funds supplemented by a few gifts from England. In a letter which I received on May 1st she writes:-

"We are now in desperate Straits as the Officials we have had recently in U.N.W.R.A. have no conception of the value of this industry to the refugees, and stopped all funds for its continuance. This means that I was not able to buy (a word I can't decipher ?) foundation to store the honey. And this year we have had four wonderful months; the most exceptional harvest and flowers all over the country.

probably "WAX"

"Now, it means that I am no longer employed, and may have to return home. The bee-keepers are consequently very disillusioned with U.N.W.R.A." She goes on to say "I think all these plans" (i.e. bee-keeping, and growing of date-palms which I had suggested) "might be of use if we could only establish the fact whether U.N. really does want to help the Refugees, or not! Otherwise one is just wasting all one's efforts." "Moreover the refugees are not the worst off, in spite of the meagre and poor rations. People who have had no work for 4 years, are starving."

As I remarked in letters to you, on more than one occasion, what a field for Communism!

Miss Britton says, in another part of her letter, that funds England has sent are not being properly applied. It seems to be a question of the "red tapishness" of Officials. Can we do anything? What do you suggest? It is a thousand shames that these people should have been left in destitution so long. Believe me - the world will have to pay for it one day! God grant it may not be in bloodshed.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) C.M. Savage.

You may like to look at the enclosed.

(Miss Waterlow.)

Registry No. EE1824/27

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

John Boyd-Carpenter Esq., M.P.,
Treasury Chambers,
Great George St.,
S.W. 1.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
13 MAY 1952
SENT TO TYPE
RESTRICTED
13/5

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RC 15/5

FROM :
Mr Nutting.

C Waterlow 20/5

12/5

Mr Kiffick

JB 12/9

13/12
13/3

+ OC
+ under (1 Copy of handwritten letter pse.)

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.
May, 1952.

You wrote to me on the 6th May to ask for my comments on a letter from one of your constituents, Miss C. M. Savage, about the Arab refugees.

2. We had already heard something about the work of Miss Olive Britton, the bee keeping expert, attached to the U.N.R.W.A., from Sir Henry Knight, our representative on the Agency, and we were aware of the possibility that the Agency might be dispensing with her services. We have, however, no information about the reasons for this decision, and we are therefore asking Sir Henry Knight to let us know the exact position.

3. Miss Britton, in her letter to your constituent, suggests that the Agency is not pursuing an effective policy for helping the Arab refugees and that the funds which Her Majesty's Government are contributing to the Agency are not being properly spent. The enclosed memorandum outlining the Agency's present plans and the difficulties with which it has had to contend will, I hope, provide some material to enable you to reassure your constituent on these points. You may also care to explain to her that, ~~under the Agency's terms of reference,~~ on all policy matters, including matters concerning ~~personnel~~ administration ~~recruitment~~ and budgeting, the Director ~~have to receive the approval of~~ consults the Advisory Commission, on which ~~Her Majesty's~~ the Government is represented by ~~a senior official of Ambassador's status~~ (Sir Henry Knight) who has the rank of Ambassador. In this way we are able to

/~~keep a close~~ supervise .....

You may be sure that Sir H Knight, who with Lady Knight takes a personal interest in these bee keeping activities, will do everything possible to help Miss Britton

(26000) Wt 48969-208 200m. 4/50. G.S.St.

the operation of the programme &
~~keep a close check on the way in which the~~
in particular the use to which
~~British contribution to the Agency is spent.~~
the British contribution is put.

4. Finally, your constituent refers to the plight of the so-called "economic refugees" who, not having lost their homes, are not eligible for ~~international~~ relief by the Agency, but ~~who~~, having no work, and in many cases being deprived of their land, are ~~in a~~ destitute ~~state~~. The condition of these people is a matter of grave concern to ~~Her Majesty's Government~~ us. They are, however, now receiving a minimum amount of subsistence from the Jordan and Egyptian Governments, ~~and~~ ~~from~~ the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and voluntary societies. ~~Her Majesty's Government~~ We are watching this matter closely and will continue to take all action in ~~their~~ our power to improve the plight of these unhappy people.

in Jordan & in the Gaza area

Jordan Government are spending £50,000 out of their recent loan from H.M.G. on the free distribution of wheat.)

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(A. Nutting.)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 1824/27) 13th May, 1952.

You wrote to me on the 6th May to ask for my comments on a letter from one of your constituents, Miss C. M. Savage, about the Arab refugees.

We had already heard something about the work of Miss Olive Britton, the bee keeping expert attached to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, from Sir Henry Knight, our representative on the Agency, and we were aware of the possibility that the Agency might be dispensing with her services. We have, however, no information about the reasons for this decision, and we are therefore asking Sir Henry Knight to let us know the exact position. You may be sure that Sir Henry Knight, who with Lady Knight takes a personal interest in these bee keeping activities, will do everything possible to help Miss Britton.

Miss Britton, in her letter to your constituent, suggests that the Agency is not pursuing an effective policy for helping the Arab refugees and that the funds which Her Majesty's Government are contributing to the Agency are not being properly spent. The enclosed memorandum outlining the Agency's present plans and the difficulties with which it has had to contend will, I hope, provide some material to enable you to reassure your constituent on these points. You may also care to explain to her that, on all policy matters, including matters concerning administration and budgeting, the Director consults the Advisory Commission, on which the

/Government

J. Boyd-Carpenter, Esq., M.P.,
Treasury.

Government is represented by Sir Henry Knight who has the rank of Ambassador. In this way we are able to supervise the operation of the programme and in particular the use to which the British contribution is put.

Finally, your constituent refers to the plight of the so-called "economic refugees" in Jordan and in the Gaza area who, not having lost their homes, are not eligible for relief by the Agency, but having no work, and in many cases being deprived of their land, are destitute. The condition of these people is a matter of grave concern to us. They are, however, now receiving a minimum amount of subsistence from the Jordan and Egyptian Governments, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and Voluntary Societies. (The Jordan Government are spending £50,000 out of their recent loan from Her Majesty's Government on the free distribution of wheat.) We are watching this matter closely and will continue to take all action in our power to improve the plight of these unhappy people.

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

(Parliamentary Under Secretary)

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1824/28

FROM Sir Henry Knight, Beirut, to Miss Waterlow.

No. AC 204

Dated 6th

Received in Registry— 14th } May.

Textiles for the Refugees.

Encloses copy of a letter from Mr. Blandford of U.N.R.W.A. giving details of further requirements

REFERENCES

EE1824/28

(MINUTES)

Draft submitted.

C Waterlow 17/5

26/5

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft) Mr Denman, B/Trade from Mr Wilford 26 May

Copy) Mr Oates (No. 10) 26. May.

(Action completed) 27/5

(Index) 14/6

37799

CONFIDENTIAL
(AC 204)

E

E1824/28

Miss C. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF

Sir Henry Knight

(Ref. you EE 1824/20 of the
5th April, 1952)

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

C/O BRITISH LEGATION
BEIRUT
6th May, 1952.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
13 MAY 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
15/5.

Eg E

COPY

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

Maison UNESCO,
BEYROUTH.

Ref : 425

2 May 1952.

Dear Sir Henry,

With reference to your note of 16 April about textile purchases.

The only textiles which we are buying in any quantity are tentage and blankets. We have recently placed an order for a considerable number of tents in France. The decision to place this contract in France was based on the need to find a suitable use for the considerable sum of non-convertible French currency at our disposal, combined with the availability of a tent of suitable design and quality.

Our programme for next winter still calls for a further 3 or 4 thousand tents of the "Bell" or "Canadian" patterns. The possibility of establishing a tent factory in Jordan, as a reintegration project, is at present under examination. This, if established, would create a demand for canvas. If this plan does not mature, we will be inviting tenders for the supply of made up new tents. The Supply Division has already given preliminary notification to our London Procurement agents, Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield, of our possible requirements, and it is suggested that the Foreign Office might like to advise potential suppliers to communicate with Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield.

We anticipate also inviting tenders for 130,000 blankets in the near future, and this requirement will also be communicated to our London agents.

We will, of course, be making our requirements known to continental sources of supply at the same time.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd. JOHN B. BLANDFORD JR.

Sir Henry Knight,
British Legation,
Beirut.

15

Registry
No. EE 1824/28

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

Draft. letter from
Mr. Wilford
to
Mr. G.R. Denman,
Board of Trade.

Copy to Mr. P.G.
Oates, 10 Downing
Street.

(Would you please)

I refer to the correspondence, ending with my letter No. EE1824/23 of the 18th April, about the suggestion that the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for the Arab Refugees should be asked to place orders for clothing, blankets and tents in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

2. Sir Henry Knight, our Representative on the Agency, has now raised this matter with Mr. J.B. Blandford, the Director of the Agency, and I enclose a copy of the Director's reply. You will see that he is quite prepared to invite ~~place~~ tenders ~~orders~~ for tents and a canvas for blankets ~~in~~ from this country and has suggested that potential supplying firms should be advised to get in touch with Messrs. Harrison and Crossfields, who are the Agency's purchasing agents in London. You will no doubt arrange for this information to be passed on to the firms in question.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Oates at No. 10.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
20 MAY 1952
SENT TO TYPE 21/5.
RETYPED

Wt. 11647/234 250m 7/51 V.P.Co. 51-8078

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

(EE 1824/28)

26th May, 1952.

OUTFILE

Dear Denman

Would you please refer to the correspondence, ending with my letter No. EE 1824/23 of the 18th April, about the suggestion that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Arab Refugees should be asked to place orders for clothing, blankets and tents in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Sir Henry Knight, our Representative on the Agency, has now raised this matter with Mr. J.B. Blandford, the Director of the Agency, and I enclose a copy of the Director's reply. You will see that he is quite prepared to invite tenders for tents or canvas and for blankets from this country and has suggested that potential supplying firms should be advised to get in touch with Messrs. Harrison and Crossfields, who are the Agency's purchasing agents in London. You will no

/doubt

G. R. Denman, Esq.,
Board of Trade.

doubt arrange for this information to be passed on to the firms in question.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Oates at No. 10.

(Lawrence Wilford)

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

1952

PALESTINE

E E 1824/30

FROM

Mr Sanche, M.P.
to Mr Selwyn Lloyd.

No.

Dated 16. 5. 52.

Received in Registry— 26. 5. 52.

Palestine Refugees.

Encloses a letter from a constituent, Mr A. R. Hyde, who has recently been to Palestine to study the refugee problem.

REFERENCES

ER 1155/3.

(MINUTES)

See minutes with.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Mr Sanche, M.P.
for Mr Selwyn Lloyd.
27 May.

(Action completed)

31/5

(Index)

Ja 5/6.

37799

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

The attached letter raises three points:-

1. Blocked Arab Balances; on which I attach our most recent reply, which covers all Mr. Hyde's points.
2. Anglo-U.S. policy over Palestine & a possible renewal of hostilities.
3. UNRWA.

Jm. Hemmed
19.V

Mr. Pirie Gordon
M.E.S.

I attach a copy of the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 between ourselves, France and the United States. I suggest that a copy of this declaration be sent to Mr Hyde as it seems to cover the exact situation envisaged by him in the second section of his letter and to obviate the necessity for additional comment.

Christopher Steel
19.5.52.

As regards UNRWA, Mr. Hyde's conclusion that resettlement is impossible without a political solution needs qualification. As

Minutes.

initiated in the attached Memo, steady progress towards the resettlement has been & is being made.

On the subject of foreign staff, it is only fair to point out that salaries are based on U.N. scales (which are ~~not~~ more or less in line with those of other employers of foreign personnel e.g. oil companies, & ports) & that in spite of the apparently attractive salaries the agency is finding it very difficult to get suitably qualified staff.

We might say that Sir H Knight, (HMG's rep. on the advisory commission of UNRWA) will be home before the end of the month & that Mr. Hyde might call to see him.

20/5

M. Hunting

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

Draft submitted.

Jas. Hewlett
22.v

M 28/5

1. Ack'd 17/5/52
2. ~~U.N.E.~~ Dept. for draft reply pl. 17/5
This is Sov Eastern Dept

Rec'd 17/5

16th May, 1952.

E 1824/30

Dear Selwyn Lloyd

I enclose a letter from a constituent, Mr. A. R. Hyde of Dorking, who has recently been to Palestine to study the Arab refugee problem.

I would be much obliged if you would advise me regarding the three points which he raises.

Yours sincerely

Gordon L Touche

The Right Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, Q. C., M. P.,
Minister of State,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S. W.

COPY

DORKING COMMITTEE FOR AID TO REFUGEES AND OTHER
DISTRESSED PERSONS.

Millside,
Reigate Road,
Dorking.

6.5.52.

Beirut, Lebanon.

Dear Mr. Touche,

I leave by air for England tomorrow; but I want to write this letter in answer to the invitation in yours of 14 January, while I still have the feeling of this country around me.

There are things which I should very much like to talk to you about, at any rate before writing to you in much detail; and if you felt you could give me an opportunity of seeing you either at Betchworth (since I live in Dorking), or, if more convenient to you, in London, I should greatly welcome it.

What I should wish particularly to stress divides itself under 2 headings.

I. British justice, and Barclays Bank. A lot of Palestinians put their money into this Bank because it was British. Four years have gone by, and they are still no nearer getting a penny, though many of them, once well to do even by our standards, are in an increasingly desperate condition. Nothing could do more to restore the waning, but still sometimes pathetically clung to, faith in "British justice", no money could be better spent or produce such a dividend in restored hope and faith, than to pay over these balances, without waiting for a general settlement or a general unfreezing of assets. Either on its own responsibility, or against a covering guarantee by our Government, Barclays Bank should pay over these amounts without any delay. Every £ so paid would be worth £10 or £20 (compare the opposite under III below) in good will and in providing capital which the refugees could themselves employ to restart themselves in business etc., - capital for which there is crying need, and which would fructify in their hands far better than through U.N.R.W.A.

II. U.S.A. and Great Britain in opposite Camps?? My ship brought out arms and ammunition for the Arab Legion. Probably at the same time an American ship brought war equipment from the U.S.A. for the Jews. The present armistice line is impossible as a permanency. Sooner * or later an armed clash will come.

Is it bone clear as between the U.S.A. and ourselves that, if the Jews break through this line at any time in force, without themselves having been first invaded by a responsible armed force, the U.S.A. will withdraw all support financial and other from the Jews, and give it, and we give ours, to the Arabs? (Vice versa, of course, if the Arabs invaded in armed force; a disorderly largely unarmed descent upon Israel by desperate

/refugees.

---

* Probably sooner, I allow 5 years at most.

refugees is an increasing possibility, but should not become an excuse for a Jewish military invasion). Is there not a grave danger of our having one day to choose between splitting with the U.S.A. or abandoning and betraying the Arabs? Better the former than the latter. Best, neither.

III. U.N.R.W.A. Here is a case where every £ of a great outlay buys not gratitude and goodwill, for the United Nations and the largest contributors the U.S.A. and Great Britain, but dislike and even hate. I was disagreeably impressed at a very early stage with the evidence for this; and it seems to be only too true that the good work U.N.R.W.A. has done and is doing in providing rations without which many 100,000 refugees would starve, and medical services and schools and so forth is lost sight of through the bitterness contempt and wrath aroused by:-

(a) the awful contrast between those ⁑ rations, and the rigid and often cruel way in which the line of qualification for them is drawn on the one hand, and the ∓ lavish incomes and ∅ luxurious living of the lordly European members of U.N.R.W.A., on the other;

(b) the many instances of waste and inefficiency in U.N.R.W.A's operations, not by any means to be all excused by the unreliability of the native staff.

Two points that call, I suggest, to be taken up are:-

(1) The moral and physical necessity of linking up the rationing system in the camps with a measure of useful employment for the men, without waiting any longer for the very - slow-to-mature schemes of re-settlement on a large scale. Surely Roosevelt's example is the one that ought to be followed, not ours with the unemployment dole. The cost would of course be much increased (5 times as much to employ a man as to keep him just alive without working?); but the cost of letting these armies of men decay years in idleness will be much greater still, large economies could be made as under (2); and a new beginning is overdue.

(2) Immediate cutting down of the excessive cost of the higher administration. The luxurious American standard of living is out of keeping in an organisation aimed to succour a needy and desperate population in a country where, for the masses, the level of living is pitifully low. The very high pay offered (£300 sterling i.e. the equivalent of it, a month, plus large allowances for living out of the homeland is but moderate I believe) attracts careerists. What is wanted are the men and women who will care more for the service of these people than the pay.

My suggested summing up of the situation would be that:- (a) no progress is apparently being made towards a political settlement; (b) no physical re-settlement of the refugees on a

/large

⁑ In Beirut worth about £6 or £7 Lebanese say 15/- a month.

∓ Director and his wife at Victoria Augusta Hospital at Jerusalem said to cost £6,000 Jordan say over £5,500 sterling a year.

∅ e.g. at the best holds at £40 Lebanon a day.

large scale is possible in advance of a political settlement; (c) the present position is alarmingly unstable, and in the absence of (a) and (b) we are moving steadily towards a new catastrophe.

Apologies for writing so much, I have no typewriter available.

Yours sincerely and with all good wishes,

(Sgd.) Arthur R. Hyde.

Mr Hunter
Rm 72
early afternoon 21/5

1 c.

B.C.

~~LE 1829/16~~

MEMORANDUM

~~And~~ Palestine Refugees -

Her Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to finding a solution to the tragic problem of the 850,000 Arab refugees. They agree that there is no possibility of any large-scale repatriation of the refugees to Israel and that the only satisfactory solution to the problem, therefore, lies in resettlement in neighbouring Arab States. Her Majesty's Government have, in fact, consistently urged in the United Nations the adoption of a practicable and realistic resettlement policy. Two major obstacles, however, have hitherto stood in the way of such a policy. Firstly, the opposition on political grounds of the Arab States: it was not until the 1950-51 session of the General Assembly that it proved possible to obtain the agreement of the Arab Governments to the extension of the scope of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (which had hitherto provided direct relief and short-term work projects) to cover projects for the resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries and in Israel. The relevant Resolution of the 2nd December, 1950, which was without prejudice to the right of the refugees to repatriation and compensation, was approved by the delegates of all Arab countries and of Israel. Subsequently, the Arab League and the Arab States individually indicated their willingness to co-operate with the Agency in implementing the programme approved by the Assembly, subject to the provision of adequate funds for its speedy realisation. The availability of such funds is, in fact, the second major obstacle. So far, the funds available have only been sufficient to finance a few minor and preliminary resettlement projects. Moreover, the problem has hitherto been tackled on a yearly basis. The 1951-2 session of the Assembly has now approved a three year programme, estimated to cost $250 million ($200 for resettlement and $50 for relief). The object of this programme is to make the refugees self-supporting as soon as possible by providing them with homes and work. If member and non-member Governments will offer adequate contributions, and if the active co-operation of the Arab States in implementing it can be secured, there will then, for the first time, be a possibility of making real progress in the solution of this grave and tragic problem.

Negotiations with the Arab powers are proceeding

2. Despite the obvious political difficulties, the prospects of obtaining the co-operation of the Arab States in the Agency's programme are now fairly encouraging. As regards the provision of funds, the outlook is also hopeful. Under the new programme, the total cost of relief and re-settlement for the year ending in June 1952 is estimated at $77 million. To meet this sum, the United States Government have generously agreed to make available up to $50 million, subject to the proviso that the United States contribution does not exceed 70% of the total contribution to the programme. Despite their own straitened circumstances, Her Majesty's Government have also agreed to contribute the equivalent of $12.4 million exclusive of a £1.5 million interest free loan to the Government of Jordan in the hope that other Governments will also make generous contributions. ~~So far, however, the response from other Governments has been slight, the total amounting to only $4.6 million. If, therefore, the full amount of funds required under the programme is to be secured, and this outstanding opportunity for making real progress with the solution of the programme is not to be lost, it will be necessary for other Governments, including Governments who are not members of the United Nations, to make contributions.~~

Late hope year this three-year proposal

(Mr. Hunter).

Registry No. EE 1824/30.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

Draft. Letter

To.
Mr. ~~Gordon~~ G.C. Touche M.P.
House of Commons

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION 24 MAY 1952 SENATE TYPE 26/5 RECORDING

Mr. Reeve first

Approved by M/S Rmk 24/5

From.
The Minister of State.

J.M. Hunter 21.v

M.E.S. first M 21/5

Oh 24/5

See below 2 copies of Mr Hyde's letter.

IZ 26/5 27/12

~~Middle East Secretariat~~

+ OC.

OUTFILE

Thank you for your letter of the 16th May, and for the most interesting letter which you enclosed from your constituent Mr. A.R. Hyde about problems connected with the Arab refugees.

To deal with his points in the order in which he has raised them, I would like to take first the question of the blocked Arab balances. This money, which so far as we are aware amounts in all to approximately ~~4~~ four or ~~5~~ five million pounds, was deposited in British Banks in Palestine before the end of the Mandate. The owners of course could have drawn the money out and taken it with them; or they could have given instructions for its transfer through bank channels; but they preferred to leave it behind. We do not know what their motives were for this; it seems possible that one was the hope that they would be able to return to Palestine and claim the balances. They have since said, and Mr. Hyde appears to accept the contention, that they were entrusting the money to the British sense of justice, or even to the British Government, who would see that they got it. In the event however the Israel authorities have blocked these balances under their "Absentee Property" legislation.

/The

Wt. 11647/234 250m 7/54 V.P.Co. 54-3073

The position which H.M.G. are bound to take is that this is, in the first place, a matter between the banks and their clients. In such a matter private banks and their branches are always obliged to adhere to the law of the country in which they are operating, and it would not be possible to call for this legal principle in the question. H.M.G. can therefore only regard the question as one for resolution between Israel and the Arab Governments, or by the United Nations in its efforts to promote peace settlements in the Middle East. Like all questions connected with the Palestine refugees, it is one whose settlement would improve the chances of agreement between Israel and the Arab governments, and H.M.G. have accordingly made every effort in the United Nations and elsewhere to find an answer. They are continuing with these endeavours.

~~Mr. Hyde's questions about the relation between~~ As regards British and United States policy in the Middle East, ~~can all I think be satisfactorily answered by~~ you may care to bring to Mr. Hyde's notice the Joint Statement ~~to all~~ by the Governments of the United Kingdom, France, and the United States on the 25th May, 1950, of which I enclose a copy. This declaration is still in force.

~~As regards the United Nations Relief and Works Administration, there is a good deal in~~ Mr. Hyde's conclusion that no resettlement of ~~the~~ Palestine refugees on a large

/scale

/As regards

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(44035) WT.32637/249 100,000 (4 UP) 11/51 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

As regards British and United States policy in the Middle East, you may care to bring to Mr. Hyde's notice the Joint Statement by the Governments of the United Kingdom, France and the United States on the 20th May 1950, of which I enclose a copy. This declaration is still in force.

Mr. Hyde's conclusion that no resettlement of the Palestine refugees on a large scale is possible without a political settlement is meant a final complete settlement of differences outstanding between Israel and the Arab States. As can be seen from the attached copy of a memorandum prepared in the Foreign Office, steady progress towards the acceptance of the principle of resettlement has been made.

needs some qualification, at least if by political settlement

On the subject of the foreign staff of U.N.R.W.A., it is only fair to point out that their salaries are based on United Nations scales. The latter are broadly speaking in line with the scales of other employers of foreign personnel, for example oil companies and governments in the Middle East. In spite of the apparently attractive salaries, the Agency is finding it very difficult to recruit suitably qualified staff.

Sir Henry Knight, who is the representative of H.M.G. on the Advisory Commission of U.N.R.W.A., will be in London before the end of this month. I am sure he would be glad to discuss these matters with Mr. Hyde if he would care to make an appointment through the Middle East Secretariat of the Foreign Office.

26.V.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

27th May, 1952.

(EE 1624/30)

OUTFILE

Thank you for your letter of the 16th May, and for the most interesting letter which you enclosed from your constituent Mr. A.E. Hyde about problems connected with the Arab refugees.

To deal with his points in the order in which he has raised them, I would like to take first the question of the blocked Arab balances. This money, which so far as we are aware amounts in all to approximately four or five million pounds, was deposited in British Banks in Palestine before the end of the Mandate. The owners could, of course, have drawn the money out and taken it with them; or they could have given instructions for its transfer through bank channels; but they preferred to leave it behind. We do not know what their motives were for this; it seems possible that one was the hope that they would be able to return to Palestine and claim the balances.

They have since said, and Mr. Hyde appears to accept the contention, that they were entrusting the money to the British sense of justice, or even to the British Government, who would see that they got it. In the event, however, the Israel authorities have blocked these balances under their "Absentee Property" legislation.

The position which Her Majesty's Government are bound to take is that this is in the first place, a matter between the banks and their clients. In such a matter private banks and their branches are always obliged to adhere to the law of the country in which they

/are

G.C. Touche, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
S.W.1.

are operating, and it would not be possible to call this legal principle in question. Her Majesty's Government can therefore only regard the question as one for resolution between Israel and the Arab Governments, or by the United Nations in its efforts to promote peace settlements in the Middle East. Like all questions connected with the Palestine refugees, it is one whose settlement would improve the chances of agreement between Israel and the Arab governments, and Her Majesty's Government have accordingly made every effort in the United Nations and elsewhere to find an answer. They are continuing with these endeavours.

As regards British and United States policy in the Middle East, you may care to bring to Mr. Hyde's notice the Joint Statement by the Governments of the United Kingdom, France and the United States on the 20th May 1950, of which I enclose a copy. This declaration is still in force.

Mr. Hyde's conclusion that no resettlement of the Palestine refugees on a large scale is possible without a political settlement, needs some qualification, at least if by political settlement is meant a final complete settlement of differences outstanding between Israel and the Arab States. As can be seen from the attached copy of a memorandum prepared in the Foreign Office, steady progress towards the acceptance of the principle of resettlement has been made.

On the subject of the foreign staff of United Nations Relief and Works Agency, it is only fair to point out that their salaries are based on United Nations scales. The latter are broadly speaking in line with the scales of other employers of foreign personnel, for example oil companies and governments in the Middle East. In spite of the apparently attractive salaries, the Agency is finding it very difficult to recruit suitably qualified staff.

/Sir Henry Knight

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1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/31

FROM

Parliamentary Question.

No.

Dated

Received in Registry— 21. 5. 52. 24. 5. 52.

Mr T. Reid asked the Secretary of State how many Roots who had voted for the partition of Palestine had refused to subscribe to Arab refugee funds.

Mr Nutting's reply attached.

REFERENCES

MINUTES

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)	(Index)
C. 29/5	G. 5/10

38679

EASTERN.

E E 1824/31

E

Parliamentary Question

La / Swindon

118. Mr. Thomas Reid,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which of the governments which voted for the partition of Palestine have refused up to date to subscribe to the present Arab refugees' fund. [*Wednesday 21st May.*]

NOT FOR ORAL ANSWER

ANSWERED 21 MAY 1952
REPLY ATTACHED.

I submit a draft reply.

E. J. Hughes.
20/5/52.

20/5

R. J. Bowker
20/5

U.N. RELIEF AGENCIES (GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIPTIONS)

Mr. T. Reid asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs which of the Governments which voted for the partition of Palestine have refused up to date to subscribe to the present Arab refugees' fund.

Mr. Nutting: Thirty-three Governments voted for the United Nations resolution for the partition of Palestine. Of this number the Governments of Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Uruguay did not contribute to the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (December, 1948, to April, 1950).

The Governments of Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay and Venezuela did not contribute to the programme of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the period of May, 1950, to June, 1951.

The Governments of Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Uruguay have not so far contributed or offered to contribute to the programme of United Nations Relief and Works Agency, for the period of July, 1951, to June, 1952.

(56/7)

RECEIVED IN C.B.
23 MAY 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

Draft reply to
Parliamentary Question
No.118 by Mr. Thomas
Reid on Wednesday [21st
March].

33 Governments voted for the United Nations resolution for the partition of Palestine.

[Of this number the Governments of Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Uruguay did not contribute to the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees, (December, 1948 to April, 1950).

The Governments of Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, [Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Scoialist Republics, Uruguay and Venezuela did not contribute to the programme of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the period of May, 1950, to June 1951.

/The Governments....

The Governments of Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Uruguay have not so far contributed or offered to contribute to the programme of United Nations Relief and Works Agency, for the period of July 1951, to June 1952.

May 20.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

E E182

U.N. RELIEF AGENCIES (GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIPTIONS)

Mr. T. Reid asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs which of the Governments which voted for the partition of Palestine have refused up to date to subscribe to the present Arab refugees' fund.

Mr. Nutting: Thirty-three Governments voted for the United Nations resolution for the partition of Palestine. Of this number the Governments of Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Uruguay did not contribute to the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (December, 1948, to April, 1950).

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21 MAY 1952

RECEIVED IN C.B.
26 MAY 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

File Number :—

W 56

1952

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EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/32.

FROM

Mr Hyde.

No.

Dated 1/6/52

Received in Registry— 9/6/52

Palestine Refugees.

Requests an interview with Sir Henry Knight to discuss the refugee problem.

REFERENCES

—/30.

(MINUTES)

CW 10/6.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft Mr Hyde for Miss Waterlow 7 June.

(Action completed)

(Index)

38068

At Millside
Reigate Rd
Dorking
(Tp. 3715)

EE 1824/32

Sun. [illegible] 6. 52

The Under Secretary of State
(Middle East Secretariat)
Foreign Office SW1

Dear Sir

Palestine

In a letter dated 27 May, EE 1824/30 to Mr Gordon Touche, M.P. for this constituency, the Minister was so kind as to suggest — see his last para. — that if I would like to discuss "these matters" further with Sir Henry Knight, who has just returned to this country, I might apply through Jim for an appointment.

I should of course much value a talk with him; and shall be grateful if Jim will let me know when & when it

it will be convenient for me to see him.

I can come to London any day; & in any case shall be coming up on Wed. or Thursday of this week.

I am writing separately to Mr Gordon Touche; but I should like to add to this letter how much I appreciate the fulness & helpfulness of the reply which the Minister was good enough to send him on my behalf.

Yours very truly,

Arthur B. Hyde

Winkleton 0110
after Thursday HC

Middle East Secretariat,

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

7th June, 1952.

OUTFILE

EE 1824/32

DFE

With reference to your letter of the 1st June about an appointment with Sir Henry Knight, I amwriting to let you know that Sir Henry Knight will be glad to see you some time after Thursday, the 12th June, whnn he will be back in London. Could you therefore ring him up on that day at Wimbledon 0110, to arrange a definite meeting ?

(C. Waterlow.)

Arthur Hyde, Esq.,
Millside,
Reigate Road,
Dorking.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

1952

E E 1824/33

FROM

Mr Barnes
Beirut.

No. 352.

Dated 20.6.52.

Received in Registry— 21.6.52.

Parliamentary Question of 25 June.

latest available figures on number of refugees resettled, and partially resettled in respective countries.

Last Paper

(Minutes.)

EU 24/6.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

34967

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

EE 1824/33

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Barnes
No. 352
20th June, 1952

D. 4.40 p.m. 20th June, 1952

R. 6.15 p.m. 20th June, 1952

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

EE 182

Your telegram No. 464.

Following from Myers.

Owing to decentralisation and present fluid situation I have had difficulty in getting accurate up to date figures. The following are latest available.

2. For brevity I shall use the word "cut" to indicate take a person off rations, "settled" for all persons so cut, "partially" for person working but not yet cut and for dependents of settled men not yet cut themselves, "pending" for persons who it is expected will soon be absorbed in projects already started.

3. Among the settled are a few genuine refugees who never received rations from U.N.R.W.A., particularly some of the placements in Libya and all but three in Iraq where refugees are fed by the Government.

4. Figures include families on land (only 219 partially in Jordan), industrial projects, training and placed.

5. Jordan - settled 245, partially 219, pending 1296 [grp. undec.]. Syria - settled 302, partially 243, pending 267. Lebanon - settled 54, partially 28. Libya - settled 52, partially 47, pending 200. Iraq - settled 346. Gaza - settled 84, partially 16. Other Arab countries - settled 12, partially 16. Israel - settled 12,000. Elsewhere settled 131.

6. Training [grp. undec.]s and employment by U.N.R.W.A. account for all those settled in the Lebanon and almost all in Gaza relate to heading "elsewhere" comprising emigrants. Emigration was stopped in September 1951 at the request of Egypt and the Lebanon.

/7. People

21 JUN 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Beirut telegram No. 352 to Foreign Office

7. People who are cut when they earn an adequate income may be considered as self settled, but these are under 100 in Syria while in Jordan since February, 1951 1520 persons have been reinstated on the ration because their incomes fell below ceiling and this includes the 252 previously settled by U.N.R.W.A. and not shown above. In the Lebanon 6795 have been so cut but we are not allowed to settle persons in this country and they should not be so described. Refugees in this paragraph are additional to those enumerated in previous paragraph.

8. Picture may be lightened by stating that since July, 1949 total numbers have been reduced from 1,054,000 to 882,000, that programme of finding jobs and homes was only authorised in January, 1952, and that negotiations have resulted in an 11 million dollar programme for Jordan to settle 5000 families, a figure which should be greatly increased by further schemes now under negotiation. Negotiations with Syria are most promising.

DISTRIBUTED TO:	ADVANCE COPIES
Eastern Department	Sir J. Bowker
Middle East Secretariat	Head of Eastern Department

H H H

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E 1824/35

FROM

Mr Barnes, Beirut.

No. 357.

Dated

Received in Registry— 21. 6. 52. 23. 6. 52.

Parliamentary Question for 25th June.

Details of money spent by UNRWA in the land, and of how many refugees had been settled.

Last Paper

(Minutes.)

CW 24/6.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

34967

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E

E

Cypher/OTP

FILES

Mr. Barnes
No. 357
21st June, 1952.

D. 5.02 p.m. 21st June, 1952.
R. 6.18 p.m. 21st June, 1952.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 479 of 20th June.

Following from Myers.

EF 182

Total expenditure to 31st March (the latest date for which figures are available) was 68,071,277 dollars. Expenditure on agricultural resettlement was 131,800 dollars including unproductive survey for water in Sinai together with soil and water survey in Jordan now nearing completion and agricultural training. The number of refugees are 219 partially settled in agriculture. These settlements are all in Jordan, mainly in the valley.

ADVANCE COPY:
Head of Eastern Department

*****

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/36

FROM

Parliamentary Question.

No.

Dated

Received in Registry— 25.6.52 27.6.52.

Mr Sorensen asked what is the present position of ~~Assistance to~~ Arabs ~~refugees~~. how many have been resettled & how many await resettlement.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

References

35
34

See written

A) Parliamentary Question (Mr Phillips Price) of 25th June.

(Copy Question & Answer to Mr Myers, Beirut. EW 1/7

(Print)

(How disposed of)

* Tel) Beirut 464 16 June.

Tel Beirut 479. 20 June.

* + Pouch.

Copy) Myers, Beirut 2 July.

B) Mr Myers, Beirut ~~to~~ Miss Waterlow (AC 95 of 4th July) EW 2/7

Miss Waterlow.

(Action completed) 2/7

(Index) 10/10

Next Paper

EASTERN. E 1824/36

19

La

Leyton

ANSWERED 25 JUN 1952
REPLY ATTACHED.

Parliamentary Question

*~~114~~ **Mr. Sorensen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what is the present position of assistance to Arab refugees; how many have been resettled; and how many await resettlement.

25 JUN 1952

See draft reply to question No. 36.

P Waterlow
24/6.

24/6

2238/9

18 JUN 1952

ARAB REFUGEES (RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT)

19. **Mr. Sorensen** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present position of assistance to Arab refugees ; how many have been resettled ; and how many await resettlement.

29. **Mr. Philips Price** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how much money has been spent to date by the United Nations organisation for the relief and settlement of Arab refugees from Palestine ; how much of this has been spent on settling those refugees on the land ; how many have been so settled ; and what are the principal areas of settlement.

The Joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Anthony Nutting) : Since January, 1952, when the United Nations authorised a $250 million three-year programme for Arab refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency has negotiated an $11 million programme for the resettlement of some 25,000 refugees in Jordan. Negotiations are also taking place with the Syrian Government.

Meanwhile, the Agency has resettled or provided work for 1,449 refugees, 219 of whom are working on the land in Jordan (others are in the Lebanon, Syria, Libya and Gaza). In addition, the Israel Government has resettled 12,000 and some 100,000 have settled themselves in Jordan. Over 850,000 still await resettlement.

The total expenditure by the Agency on relief and resettlement up to March, 1952, has been $68 million, of which $132,000 have been spent on agricultural resettlement.

Mr. Sorensen : Can the hon. Gentleman say how long it will be before this tragic problem is resolved ; how long it will be before these 180,000 refugees are resettled?

Mr. Nutting : I must correct the hon. Gentleman ; the number still to be resettled is 850,000. I cannot, alas, say when this problem will be resolved, but I can at least say that the United Nations have now a considerable amount of funds at their disposal, and I am able to assure the hon. Gentleman that a real attack is now being made on the problem with the funds at the disposal of the United Nations.

Mr. Price : Has any difficulty been found in the refugees themselves not wanting to find new places of settlement and hoping that they will be able to go back to their original homes?

Mr. Nutting : There is that problem, but there are other problems connected with the non-fertility of many of the areas in which they are at present settled.

Sir R. Glyn : Can my hon. Friend say whether the United Nations irrigation scheme with a view to settlement about the Euphrates, which was previously agreed to, is being proceeded with?

Mr. Nutting : I cannot give my hon. Friend an answer to that question offhand, but I can say that water surveys are being undertaken and that considerable attempts are being made to solve these problems, which I have already described as of non-fertility.

25 JUN 1952

29 +19

EASTERN.

EE 1824 | 36

Parliamentary Question

*36 **Mr. Philips Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, how much money has been spent to date by the United Nations Organization for the relief and settlement of Arab refugees from Palestine; how much of this has been spent on settling those refugees on the land; how many have been so settled; and what are the principal areas of settlement.

La Gloucestershire. W.

25 JUN 1952

I submit a draft reply, which also answers Question No. 114.

C Watalas
24/6.

[signature] 24/6

R. J. Bowland
24/6

[signature]
June 24.

2236/9

30 JUN 1952

DRAFT REPLY TO
PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTIONS
NO. 36
BY MR. PHILIPS
PRICE
and
NO.114
BY MR. SORENSEN
25th June, 1952.

Mr Noel-Baker

With permission, I will ~~reply to~~ answer this question and ~~to Question~~ No. ~~114~~ 29 together.

Since January, 1952, when the United Nations authorised a $200.m. ~~three~~ million three year programme of homes and jobs for ~~the~~ Arab refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency ~~for the Palestine Refugees~~ has negotiated an $11.m. programme for the resettlement of some 25,000 refugees in Jordan. ~~This figure should be substantially increased if further schemes now under consideration can be carried out.~~ Negotiations are also taking place with the Syrian Government.

? wise to omit

~~2.~~ Meanwhile, the Agency has resettled or provided work for ± 1449 refugees, ~~of whom~~ 219 ~~have been resettled~~ Of whom are working on the land in Jordan. (~~Others are~~ in Lebanon, Syria, Libya + Gaza.) In addition, the Israel Government has resettled 12,000 and some 100,000 have settled themselves in Jordan. Over 850,000 still await resettlement.

Where are the others? unregistered

~~3.~~ The total expenditure by the Agency on

/relief

relief and resettlement up to March 1952 has been $68 million, of which $132,000 have been spent on agricultural resettlement.

Does any of this come out of $ 250 m. programme?

Yes.

Re June 22.

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES:

Q. What is the reason for the Agency's failure so far to resettle more than 1,500 refugees?

A. Firstly, the Agency has until this year, lacked adequate funds for a resettlement programme. Secondly, only limited possibilities of resettlement exist in the countries which have so far been prepared to co-operate. In the Sinai peninsular an extensive water survey has produced disappointing results. In Jordan, where soil and water surveys are being carried out, only small schemes are possible without considerable expenditure on capital development. Nevertheless, by the screening of ration rolls and other means, the total number of refugees on the Agency's books has been reduced from 1,054,000 in July 1949, to rather over 850,000 at present.

?

Q. What is the present position regarding the availability of funds for resettlement?

A. The total contributions offered by Governments to the first year of the three-year programme, which is now ending, amount to $67.m., including

/$50.m.

$50.m. contributed by the United States Government, and £4.45m. (the equivalent of $12.4.m.) contributed by Her Majesty's Government.

Contributions for next year cannot yet be announced but it is hoped that the contributions of both Govts. will be higher

Q. What is the total amount so far contributed by Her Majesty's Government to the refugees?

A. £7,766,000. (includes about £4.45m.), of which £6,666,000. have been contributed to the U.N.R.W.A. and £1,100,000. to the preceding Agency.

? incl. the £4.45m. above.

List of countries where refugees are now living with figs. for each Flag D.

[Not to be said] Substantial progress in negotiations ~~Any progress or attempts~~ with Syria regarding resettlement ~~to get other Arab state to cooperate in resettlement.~~

List of other contributions to $250 m. plan. Flag F

Registry No. EE 1824/36

Top Secret. / Secret. / Confidential. / ~~Restricted.~~ / Open.

EMERGENCY / IMMEDIATE / PRIORITY / ROUTINE with / ~~without~~ priority / DEFERRED

20 JUN 1952

(Date)

Despatched 1-22 P M.

OUT FILE

Draft.

[*Security classification —if any*]

Telegram to :—

Beirut

Addressed to Beirut.

telegram No. ..... *(date)* .....

repeated for information to .....

No. 479 Saving

(Date) June 20

Repeat to :—

RECEIVED IN C.R. 20 JUN 1952 SENT TO CODE

En Clair.
Code.
~~Cypher~~.

Distribution :—

Files

Copies to :—

Following for MYERS.

Following Parliamentary Question has been put down for June 25th:

"How much MONEY has been spent to date by Agency; how much of this has been spent on settling refugees ON THE LAND; HOW MANY how many have been so settled; WHAT ARE AREAS what are principal areas of settlement."

2. Grateful for COMMENTS BY comments by Monday night.

EW 20/6.

12.40 P
20/6/52

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(41381) Wt.29195/220 125,000 11/50 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT

En clair. FILES.

No.479.

D. 1.22 p.m. 20th June, 1952.

20th June, 1952.

PRIORITY.

Following for Myers.

Following Parliamentary Question has been put down for June 25th:

"How much money has been spent to date by Agency; how much of this has been spent on settling refugees on the land; how many have been so settled; what are principal areas of settlement".

2. Grateful for comments by Monday night.

- - - - -

Registry No. EE1824/36

16 JUN 1952

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

~~EMERGENCY~~
~~IMMEDIATE~~
~~PRIORITY~~
ROUTINE with / ~~without~~ priority
~~DEFERRED~~

(Date) .....

Despatched 2-5 P M.

Draft.

Telegram to :— Beirut

No. 464

(Date) June 16

Repeat to :—

RECEIVED W.C.R.
17 JUN 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution :— Files

Copies to :—

[Security classification —if any]

Addressed to ~~Beirut, Baghdad, Amman~~

OUTFILE

telegram No. ..... (date) .....

repeated for information to .....

Following for MYERS.

Please telegraph by June 21st, for reply to Parliamentary Question on June 25th, number of refugees so far resettled, ~~with~~ by countries, including those partially resettled, ~~and~~ together with any relevant details.

CW 16/6.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

12.45 P
16/6/52

(413[illegible]) WT.29195/220 125,000 11/50 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT

En Clair

FILES

CE 1824/36

No. 464

16th June, 1952 D. 2.05 p.m. 16th June, 1952

Following for Myers please telegraph by 21st June, for reply to Parliamentary question on 25th June, number of refugees so far resettled, by countries, including those partially resettled, together with any relevant details.

666666

(AC 95)

UNCLASSIFIED

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT P.W

c/o British Legation,

BEIRUT.

E

4th July, 1952.

INDEXED

E1824/36 B.

E

Dear Miss Waterlow,

Please refer to Foreign Office telegram No. 479 of 20th June, 1952, concerning parliamentary question put down for June 25th.

2. I have had a request from the Secretary to the Advisory Commission for a copy of the relevant extracts from Hansard. and should be grateful if you would forward these as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(O.H. MYERS)

Sent by Bag
15/7.
Cw 21/7

Miss C.M. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN G.B.
16 JUL 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

ARAB REFUGEES (RELIEF
AND RESETTLEMENT

---

19. Mr. Sorensen asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present position of assistance to Arab refugees; how many have been resettled; and how many await resettlement.

29. Mr. Philips Price asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how much money has been spent to date by the United Nations organisation for the relief and settlement of Arab refugees from Palestine; how much of this has been spent on settling those refugees on the land; how many have been so settled; and what are the principal areas of settlement.

The Joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Anthony Nutting):

Since January, 1952, when the United Nations authorised a £250 million three-year programme for Arab refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency has negotiated an £11 million programme for the resettlement of some 25,000 refugees in Jordan. Negotiations are also taking place with the Syrian Government.

Meanwhile, the Agency has resettled or provided work for 1,449 refugees, 219 of whom are working on the land in Jordan (others are in the Lebanon, Syria, Libya and Gaza). In addition, the Israel Government has resettled 12,000 and some 100,000 have settled themselves in Jordan. Over 850,000 still await resettlement.

The total expenditure by the Agency on relief and resettlement up to March, 1952, has been £68 million, of which £132,000 have been spent on agricultural resettlement.

Mr. Sorensen: Can the hon. Gentleman say how long it will be before this tragic problem is resolved; how long it will be before these 180,000 refugees are resettled?

Mr. Nutting: I must correct the hon. Gentleman; the number still to be resettled is 850,000. I cannot, alas, say when this problem will be resolved, but I can at least say that the United Nations have now a considerable amount of funds at their disposal, and I am able to assure the hon. Gentleman that a real attack is now being made on the problem with the funds at the disposal of the United Nations.

Mr. Price: Has any difficulty been found in the refugees themselves not wanting to find new places of settlement and hoping that they will be able to go back to their original homes?

Mr. Nutting: There is that problem, but there are other problems connected with the non-fertility of many of the areas in which they are at present settled.

/Sir R. Glyn:

Sir R. Glyn: Can my hon. Friend say whether the United Nations irrigation scheme with a view to settlement about the Euphrates, which was previously agreed to, is being proceeded with?

Mr. Nutting: I cannot give my hon. Friend an answer to that question offhand, but I can say that water surveys are being undertaken and that considerable attempts are being made to solve these problems, which I have already described as of non-fertility.

Contributions to the 1951-52 programme of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency

		In terms of Dollars
1	Australia	350,000
2	Bahrain	21,000
3	Belgium	30,000
4	Bolivia	5,000
5	Denmark	43,500
6	Egypt	391,000
7	El Salvador	500
8	France	2,571,400
9	Greece	56,000
10	Honduras	2,500
11	Indonesia	30,000
12	Israel	57,500
13	Jordan	168,000
14	Kuwait	31,500
15	Lebanon	33,000
16	Luxembourg	2,000
17	Mexico	115,600
18	Netherlands	25,000
19	New Zealand	210,000
20	Norway	14,000
21	Pakistan	90,000
22	Philippines	10,000
23	Qatar	21,000
24	Saudi Arabia	115,000
25	S. Rhodesia	19,600
26	Sudan	144,000
27	Sweden	20,000
28	Syria	60,000
29	United Kingdom	12,400,000
30	U.S.A.	50,000,000
31	Venezuela	20,000
32	Viet Nam	5,000
33	Yemen	(Large quantity of Cereals)
34	Yugoslavia	45,000
		67,107,100

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARAB REFUGEES.

JORDAN	450,000	
GAZA	200,000	
LEBANON	120,000	
SYRIA	80,000	
IRAQ	4,000	(Supported by the Iraq Government.)
ISRAEL	19,000	(Will be supported by the Israel Government from July onwards.)

About one-third of the refugees live in camps.

The remainder live in lodgings in the towns and villages.

C. Waterlow.

(C. Waterlow.)
Middle East Secretariat.
25th June 1952.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/37

FROM

Gerald Williams M.P.

To Mr Selwyn Lloyd.

No.

Dated 26. 6. 52

Received in Registry— 30. 6. 52.

Refugees – Jordan.

Encloses letter for his constituent, Rev. D. M. Lynch, enquiring into the position of the Arab refugees in Jordan.

References

MINUTES

EW 4/7

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft. to Mr Williams, M.P.

for Mr Selwyn Lloyd

2 July.

(Action completed)	(Index)
7/7	6147

41070

1) ack 26/6
2) Middle East Secretariat

House of Commons,

London, S.W.1

26/6

26th June, 1952.

E E 1824/37

I enclose a letter I have had from a constituent. I shall be very glad to know the position regarding Arab refugees in Jordan if you will be good enough to write to me.

Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, C.B.E., Q.C., M.P.
Foreign Office.

COPY
(EE 1824/37)

St. Luke's Vicarage,
158 Upper Grosvenor
Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

24.VI.52

Dear Mr. Williams,

I would like you to know of the concern which I and some of my friends feel about the plight of the Arab refugees in Jordan, and I hope that you will take every opportunity there is to urge the Government to make a large and more worthy contribution to their relief and resettlement. It seems to me a matter of great urgency, that these hundreds of thousands should have so little done for them. I know a little of the difficulties, but I am sure that anything spent on their rehabilitation would be a contribution to world peace.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) D.M. Lynch.

(Miss Waterlow.)

Registry No. EER24/37

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft: G.W.

~~Gerald~~ Williams, Esq., M.P.,

House of Commons, S.W. 1.

FROM : The Minister of State.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
1 JUL 1952
SENT TO TYPE 1/7
DESPATCHED

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Wt. 11647/234 250m 7/51 V.P.Co. 51-8078

see below

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

June, 1952. 2/6 2/12

+ OC.

Thank you for your letter of the 26th June, enclosing a letter from one of your constituents, the Rev. D. M. Lynch, about the Arab refugees in Palestine.

2. Her Majesty's Government share your constituent's concern at the plight of the Arab refugees, including the 460,000 refugees who are now in Jordan. They have done and are doing everything in their power to secure a solution to this tragic problem.

3. As regards relief, the position, I am glad to say, is ~~fairly~~ more than satisfactory. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency has spent $27.m. during the year ending on the 30th June, on relief for 850,000 refugees, including provision of rations at a level of 1,600 calories a day, medical and social services, and education ; and their health and general condition are now better than those of many of the indigenous inhabitants of the countries who have given them refuge. This applies of course, equally to the refugees in Jordan and to those in other areas - Gaza, Syria and Lebanon.

4. As regards resettlement, the Agency has been confronted with great difficulties. In the case of Jordan, where the Government has for some time indicated its willingness to accept resettlement of refugees, the possibilities are unfortunately limited, ~~Small agricultural and industrial schemes can probably enable some 25,000 refugees to be directly resettled, and~~ Detailed soil and water surveys are now being carried out ~~for this purpose. As a~~ .....

and until this year, the Agency has also been handicapped by lack of funds.

purpose. As a result of major capital development works providing for the irrigation of the Jordan Valley, which would require political agreement between Jordan and Israel, an additional ~~100,000 will probably be resettled~~. The Agency has, ~~just~~ concluded an agreement with the Jordan Government for an $11.m. resettlement and re-employment programme which will provide for some 25,000 refugees. The only satisfactory solution of the problem of the great majority of the refugees in Jordan ~~would be~~, however, to arrange resettlement in neighbouring countries where extensive possibilities of development exist - e.g., Syria and Iraq. Until recently the Governments of these countries, ~~probably~~ for political reasons, were not prepared to consider a resettlement policy. At the last session of the United Nations Assembly, however, the Arab States, as well as Israel, endorsed a three-year programme of relief and resettlement put forward by the Agency, ~~and~~ estimated to cost $250.m. ($200.m. for resettlement and $50.m. for relief) for the period July 1951 to June 1954. To meet the cost of the first year of this programme, estimated at $77.m., the United States Government have generously contributed $50.m. and, despite our own straightened financial position, Her Majesty's Government have contributed the equivalent of $12.4.m. Small contributions have also been received from other Governments. Adequate funds are thus for the first time in sight to enable a real start to be made with resettlement, and the prospects of securing the agreement of ~~the~~ the Arab States, as well as that of Jordan, ~~under~~ to a large-scale resettlement programme are

/brighter than ...

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

brighter than at any time hitherto.

3. In addition to their contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Her Majesty's Government have since 1949 made interest free development loans to the Jordan Government, for projects which will also promote resettlement of the refugees, amounting to £2½ million. It is estimated that some 100,000 refugees have in fact already settled themselves in Jordan through their own efforts, partly as a result of the work opportunities provided by these projects.

4. I return your constituent's letter herewith.

CW 30/6.

(~~Selwyn Lloyd.~~)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(35941) Wt.17568/163 50,000 6/48 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(30341) Wt.31782/171 85,000 11/48 " - "

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

2nd July, 1952.

(EE 1824/37)

My dear Gerald,

Thank you for your letter of the 26th June, enclosing a letter from one of your constituents, the Reverend D.M. Lynch, about the Arab refugees in Palestine.

Her Majesty's Government share your constituent's concern at the plight of the Arab refugees, including the 460,000 refugees who are now in Jordan. They have done and are doing everything in their power to secure a solution to this tragic problem.

As regards relief, the position, I am glad to say, is not unsatisfactory. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency has spent £27 m. during the year ending on the 30th June, on relief for 850,000 refugees, including provision of rations at a level of 1,600 calories a day, medical and social services, and education; and their health and general condition are now better than those of many of the indigenous inhabitants of the countries who have given them refuge. This applies of course, equally to the refugees in Jordan and to those in other areas - Gaza, Syria and Lebanon.

As regards resettlement, the Agency has been confronted with great difficulties. In the case of Jordan, where the Government has for some time indicated its willingness to accept resettlement of refugees, the possibilities are unfortunately limited, and until this year, the Agency had also been handicapped by lack of funds. Detailed soil and water surveys are now being

/carried

G.W. Williams, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

carried out. The Agency has however, now concluded an agreement with the Jordan Government for an £11 m. resettlement and re-employment programme which will provide for the resettlement of some 25,000 refugees through small agricultural and industrial schemes. The only satisfactory solution of the problem of the great majority of the refugees in Jordan is, however, to arrange resettlement in neighbouring countries where extensive possibilities of development exist - e.g., Syria and Iraq. Until recently the Governments of these countries, were not prepared, for political reasons, to consider a resettlement policy. At the last session of the United Nations Assembly, however, the Arab States, as well as Israel, endorsed a three-year programme of relief and resettlement put forward by the Agency, estimated to cost £250 m. (£200 m. for resettlement and £50 m. for relief) for the period July 1951 to June 1954. To meet the cost of the first year of this programme, estimated at £77 m., the United States Government have generously contributed £50 m. and, despite our own straightened financial position, Her Majesty's Government have contributed the equivalent of £12.4 m. Small contributions have also been received from other Governments. Adequate funds are thus for the first time in sight to enable a real start to be made with resettlement, and the prospects of securing the agreement of the other Arab States, as well as that of Jordan, to a large-scale resettlement programme are brighter than at any time hitherto.

/In

In addition to their contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Her Majesty's Government have since 1949 made interest free development loans to the Jordan Government, for projects which will also promote resettlement of the refugees, amounting to £2½ million. It is estimated that some 100,000 refugees have in fact already settled themselves in Jordan through their own efforts, partly as a result of the work opportunities provided by these projects.

I return your constituent's letter herewith.

Yours ever,

Selwyn.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E 1824/38

FROM

Parliamentary Question.

No.

Dated 3.7.52.

Received in Registry— 3.7.52.

Captain Soames asked President of Board of Trade what contracts for textiles have been placed in U.K. on behalf of UNRWA

Last Paper

(Minutes)

EW 4/7

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)	(Index)

Next Paper

37021

EASTERN

Parliamentary Question E 1824/38

* 41 **Captain Soames:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade, what contracts for textiles have been placed in this country on behalf of the United Nations Relief Organisation for Arab refugees.

11 Bedford

3 - JUL 1952

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1824/39

FROM Chancery, Beirut, to Eastern Dept.

No. 1825/8/52
Dated 10th
Received in Registry— 16th } July.

Encloses copies of letters received from the "Executive Committee of the General Palestine Refugee Congress in the Lebanon."

Last Paper

—

Reference

—

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

Mr Pullar HAD 23/7 E Dept.

for SVS.

C Watkins 21/7

There is not a great deal one can say on this problem. The feelings of the refugees, if correctly interpreted by the Committee, are understandable whatever the real causes of their misery. But H.M.G. cannot enforce U.N. resolutions, and therein lies the weakness of the U.N. position in so many places. H.M.G. are not even represented on the P.C.C. so the Committee's complaints could have been sent elsewhere. They might have been sent to their brethren in neighbouring Arab states.

H.M. Pullar 23/7

CW 24/7

(Action completed) [signature] 25/7

(Index) [signature] 16/10

Next Paper

37613

E1824/39

British Legation,
Beirut.
10th July, 1952.

RESTRICTED
(1825/8/52)

Dear Department,

We have had two letters (copies enclosed) from a body calling itself the "Executive Committee of the General Palestine Refugee Congress in the Lebanon." The first demands that H.M. Government should enforce United Nations' decisions on Israel and the second forwards a copy of a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

2. We have acknowledged the letters and no further action seems called for.

3. The letters may be part of a general campaign by Arab organisations which is rumoured to be on foot. Myers tells us that there is evidence of such activities in Jordan.

4. We are sending copies of this letter and enclosures to Amman, Damascus, Tel Aviv and B.M.E.O. Fayid.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

BRITISH LEGATION BEIRUT

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

15 JUL 1952
18/7

COPY

The Executive Committee of the
General Palestinian Refugee Congress
in the Lebanon. Head Office.
Beirut.
Ref. No. 6/52.
Date 18/6/52.

H.E. The British Minister in the Lebanon

The Executive Committee of the General Palestine Refugee Congress in Lebanon has the honour to submit to Your Excellency a copy of the memorandum they despatched to the General Secretary of the United Nations, hoping that you would kindly forward it to H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Although your honourable government does not participate in the International Conciliation Commission for Palestine, we have deemed it fit to submit to it a copy of the memorandum because we have confidence in Great Britain's ability to find solutions for the most difficult and intricate problems, as history has shown us.

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) ? ? ?

SECRETARY.

COPY

The Executive Committee of the
General Palestinian Refugee Congress
in the Lebanon. Head Office.
Beirut.
10/6/1952.
No.6/52.

H.E. The Minister of Great Britain in the Lebanon,

The Executive Committee of the General Palestinian Refugee Congress in the Lebanon has the honour to present to Your Excellency the following statement:-

The Palestinian Refugees, who for the last four years live in a very grave condition of misery and affliction, believe that this state of their's was a direct result of Balfour's declaration.

They were forced out of their country and their houses and properties were robbed by the Jews under the hearing and sight of the British Government, who, at one time, undertook the responsibility of ruling Palestine on the pretext to offer her people happiness and prosperity. We regret to say that this happiness was transformed to disaster and severe trial.

Four years have passed, during which, Britain's attitude towards us was the attitude of a spectator only as if she had nothing to do with this matter but wish to make the people believe that relinquishing the mandate in the manner she did relieves her of responsibility before the people and history.

The Palestinian Refugees hold Great Britain as the chief responsible source of their disaster. They know very well that she is capable, if so she desires, of adjusting matters in the right shape and forcing Israel to accept the resolutions of the United Nations issued since 1947.

But she does not wish to do so and thus gained the hatred and disgust of all the refugees, who, are determined to teach their children and grandchildren how to hate Great Britain should she not carry out an immediate positive action that puts an end to the grievances of the Palestinian refugees.

This Committee which has the honour of representing the refugees, earnestly begs that your Government would attend to their complaints and see that the resolutions of the United Nations were enforced so that they return to their homes in the part of Palestine which was granted to them.

This done you would win the friendship of the Arabs and their loyalty.

We beg Your Excellency to forward this memorandum to the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to be kind enough to acknowledge receipt of it.

Kindly accept our gratitude and respects.

Sgd. Secretariat of the Executive
Committee of the Palestine Refugee
Congress.

COPY

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE GENERAL PALESTINIAN REFUGEE

CONGRESS IN LEBANON

HEAD-OFFICE BEIRUT

c/o The Palestine Permanent Office,
Saad Zaghloul Street, BEIRUT.

Telephone : 95/97

Ref. No. : LML/6/52

Date : 15/6/1952

To His Excellency,
The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York, N.Y.

Your Excellency,

The Executive Committee of The General Palestinian Refugee Congress in Lebanon has the honour to present to Your Excellency the following:

In its last session of the United Nations the General Assembly adopted two resolutions relating to Palestine and the Refugees. The first resolution called for the renewal of the commission given to the Palestine Conciliation Commission with a view to solving the Palestine problem in accordance with United Nations resolutions. The second resolution called for the setting aside of the sum of 250 million dollars for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the refugees in the ways recommended in Mr. Blandord's schemes.

Whereas Mr. Blandford has been indeed working hard to fulfil the duties assigned to him, we note that the Palestine Conciliation Commission on the other hand has frozen its activities in a strange manner showing no life either for making research or for exerting real efforts to implement the resolutions of the United Nations. The Palestine Conciliation Commission has in fact acted as though Palestine was not its business. It has satisfied itself into believing that the report which it is now preparing in its New York office for submission to the General Assembly

/next

next autumn is all that it is asked to do. It has neglected the more important side of its duties which call upon it to make direct contact with the refugees themselves whose views are after all the most important in any consideration of their destiny. This one-sided vigour and industry shown only by UNRWA has invited suspicion into our minds about the sincerity of the United Nations. It has showed us that the true intentions of the United Nations are only to resettle the refugees outside their own country and to get rid of the refugee camps whose presence is an incessant and dreadful reminder and warning to the United Nations, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. This, together with the prejudice against us and the deliberate evasion from implementing the United Nations resolutions since 1947, has forced us to believe in the presence of a conspiracy of which the United Nations cannot absolve itself because it is of its own doing. We shall make sure, therefore, that our problem which was created by You shall remain a problem and a shameful scar on the forehead of the Western Democracies; and let the Americans and the British reap the fruits of their own sowing.

We wish to assure you that we are speaking in the tongue of all the refugees in Lebanon when we say to you very frankly that they unanimously refuse all schemes of resettlement whatever their guise, whether it is termed rehabilitation or refugees or settlement on the fringes of Palestine's frontiers. The only acceptable solution to them is what we always advised you about time and again, namely the return of the refugees to their homes and to their villages with United Nations help and protection.

This is the only true course for resolving the Palestine case and the refugee problem. Time alone will prove to you the sincerity and truth of this, our advice, and if you don't listen to us you will only waste your

/efforts

efforts which are bound to stumble with the rock of our deep faith in our unflinching rights to our country.

We shall be thankful if you will kindly circulate copies of this short memorandum to the competent Palestine Committees and to the member nations, and will greatly appreciate your confirmation of receiving it.

Yours faithfully,

Secretariat Bureau. (Rubber stamp of Palestine Refugees Conference Lebanon)

(3 signatures)

Copy to : Director-General, UNRWA, Beirut.
United States Minister, Beirut.
Minister of France, Beirut.
Minister of Turkey, Beirut.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/40

FROM

Sir G. Touche.

to Mr Selwyn Lloyd.

No.

Dated 5. 8. 52.

Received in Registry— 15. 8. 52.

Arab Refugees.

Encloses a letter & memorandum from his constituent Mr A. R. HYDE.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

See minutes within.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Sir G. Touche, M.P. for Mr Selwyn Lloyd.

16 Aug.

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

36390

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

(44085) Wt.31461/245 220,000 11/51 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(44944) Wt.42772/258 350,000 2/52 " "

Miss Waterlow

In the attached draft to Sir Gordon Touche, ought we perhaps to:

If the refugees should e.g. do a hunger march into Israel, quite possibly Israel might assume Jordan or Lebanese connivance, & call it agression.

(1) comment on the point in Mr. Hyde's memorandum that there is great danger, in the event of a "blaze-up", of the 1950 Declaration being invoked;

Syria at one time demanded that a policeman should accompany every UNRWA officer while visiting refugees on duty. Jordan asked for the removal of Evans, who knew Arabic, but not on these grounds obviously of course. Also a Min British who was a persona grata with refugees. As a general statement it is too wide, but certainly all Arab Govts seem to demand such contact

(2) deal with paragraph 16 of the memorandum in which, as I understand it, Mr. Hynd alleges that the Arab Governments will not allow Arabic-speaking non-Arab employees of U.N.R.W.A. to get in touch with the refugees;

HR 12852

(3) cut out the reference at the bottom of page 2. of the draft to the size of our contribution to the Arab Legion, in view of our refusal to undertake responsibility for ~~sharing~~ paying out the blocked balances ourselves?

?

(A.A. Duff)
11th August, 1952.

Sir H. Knight has commented

in the margin.

I should welcome E. Dept's views on (1) & (3). As regards (2), Sir H. Knight does not think that HMG can take any direct action.

C Waterlow
12/8

E Dept
Mr Dullar — (1) see separate minute HMP 12/8
Mr Hunter — (3).

(3). There is a difference in our degree of responsibility, of course. But I agree that while it is clearly enough understood inside the F.O., a passing allusion like this might only confuse the reader & imply in his mind an acceptance of more responsibility, for problems other than the Legion, than we do in fact accept. It should be deleted.

Jm. Hunter
12/8

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Nothing to be Wri

I submit a draft reply to Sir Gordon Touche's letter to the Minister of State (attached.) This draft has been cleared with Eastern Dept & with Sir Henry Knight.

C Waterlow
8/8

Mr J.E. Reeve.

AM
14:8

This is a very large question on which it is impossible to comment briefly, and which has not come my way before.

As far as I know from reading, the refugees on the W. bank of Jordan tend to want a settlement with Israel - B. M. E. O. indicates this. On the other hand we have evidence, I believe, from Amman and Beirut of increased bitterness amongst the refugees. It is no easy matter then to estimate approximate nos. of hunger marches. A great many women and children and old and invalid would not march, as if they did they would probably die. Equally, not many of the more affluent or middle-aged or those who had settled or had their money in progress would march. In Gaza ¼ of the refugees are surrounded by Israel territory and forces, in inhospitable country, and they could probably be subtracted almost totally from those

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

who would march. In point of fact, the numbers of marchers might be relatively small compared with the first awful mental vision one has of 600, 000 hungry marchers.

I do not know where the camps are, nor how they are guarded. Presumably U.N.R.R.A. are well informed on these aspects. Politically, U.N.R.R.A. cannot cease supplies without the almost certain dangers of overturning the Arab Govts. concerned, & increasing Communism. It is clearly essential that the Arab Govts. concerned should have strong security measures in hand, but they may well use the refugees as their own tools and relax vigilance when it suits them.

I quite agree that there is a dangerous situation, but how dangerous can be estimated best by U.N.R.R.A. and our H.M.G. Rs. in the countries concerned. I would suggest that the possibility of the situation foreshadowed be

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

communicated to Mr. R.R. and that their comments should be asked for very swiftly. At the same time the implementation of the Tripartite Declaration should be studied here and the views put to the French and Americans. It is possible that they may have studied the problem, but there would certainly be no harm in bringing any such studies up to date. Broadly speaking it would look at first sight as if the U.S. would have to use their influence over Israel and we our influence over Jordan to stabilise any disaster that threatened, rather than become involved in our habitual exercise of straddling the fence, each in his own way.

I do not think we can say much of this to Mr. Hyde, but perhaps we could say that we propose to investigate further as a result of his memo.

H. M. Sultan 12/8

P.T.O.

Minutes.

Draft amended accordingly.

C Watkins
13/8.

(1) Although this point is one for E. Dept. I doubt if any reference to the hypothetical situation foreseen in Mr Hynds para 6 (2) is necessary. The dft points out that the Legion is responsible for preventing a 'blaze up' and that we are doing our best to ensure that it is strong enough to do so. I think this is enough.

(2) I have made an addition to the dft.

(3) Deleted.

J.B. Richmond
13/8

E. Dept. - HRP 13/8
Mr Dept
AAA
14:8

CW 14/8

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

1. Achd. 6/8/52.
2. Eastern Dept. for draft reply.

Seen by M/S State 6:8

5th August, 1952.

Your Ref. EE 1824/30

E E 1824/40

My dear Selwyn Lloyd

You kindly wrote to me on the 27th May regarding a letter which I had received from a constituent, Mr. A. R. Hyde, regarding the Arab refugee problem.

Since then Mr. Hyde has had two interviews with Sir Henry Knight, whose courtesy he greatly appreciates. Mr. Hyde has now sent me the enclosed letter and memorandum on the Arab Israel problem. I would be grateful if you would advise me regarding the points raised therein.

yours sincerely

Harold Macmillan

The Right Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, C. B. E., Q. C., M. P.,
Minister of State,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

Registry
No. EE 1824/40

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

C
W

Draft.

from
Minister of State
to
Sir Gordon Touche, M.P.,
Broome Cottage,
Betchworth,
Surrey.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

15/3
16/10

OUTFILE

Thank you for your letter of the 5th August, with which you enclose a letter and memorandum from one of your constituents, Mr. A. R. Hyde, regarding the Arab refugee problem.

I have read Mr. Hyde's memorandum with great interest and am in general agreement with the views he expresses. In his covering letter he inquires whether Her Majesty's Government ~~is~~ are prepared to take action on the following matters:-

I "Initiating, if the Jews do not, a suitable unfreezing scheme (for the Arab blocked balances) as the spearhead of a new advance";

II "Precautions in case of a blaze up in the refugee camps";

III "Enabling the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to employ the men and women it most needs in the most needful way".

My comments on these points are as follows:-

With regard to I, I am glad to say that the Israel~~i~~ Government has now expressed its willingness to discuss specific measures for the gradual release of the blocked Arab balances, subject to the overall foreign exchange position of the country; and has agreed that these measures should not be directly related to the release of blocked Jewish accounts in Arab countries. This is a useful step forward. Unfortunately, however, the actual operation of settling these accounts

/will

C Waterlow
7/8

8/8

Please have draft typed for signature
16:8

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
15 AUG 1952
SENIOR TYPE
DESPATCHED

(34615) Wt.34382/152 50,000 12/47 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(35708) Wt.13462/159 150,000 5/48

will probably take time, since it will first be necessary to trace their owners and then ~~to~~ see that the claims submitted are reasonable and justified. Her Majesty's Government are not, as you know, represented on the Palestine Conciliation Commission, with whom the responsibility for these negotiations rests. Nevertheless, we are doing all we can to stimulate the parties concerned to expedite a settlement of this very thorny problem. I doubt, however, whether, in the unfortunate event of the negotiations proving unsuccessful, we should be justified in asking Parliament to vote funds to repay the Arab balance holders, as Mr. Hyde suggests. We have already greatly taxed our straitened financial resources in contributing and offering £13·1 million to the relief and resettlement of the refugees.

As regards II, precautionary measures against the possibility of violent action by the refugees is a matter for which responsibility must rest with the Arab Governments. Her Majesty's Government are, however, doing all they can to assist these Governments to strengthen their security services. In Jordan, where over half the refugees are situated, we [~~would~~] assume that the Arab Legion [(~~to~~ ~~whose maintenance Her Majesty's Government contributes £8 million a year~~ has granted £7.5 this year)] would be able to contain the refugees if they were to attempt to march on Israel. Our aim, ~~however~~, is to give every possible backing to UNRWA's resettlement plans, in the hope that the prospect of obtaining homes and jobs in new lands will

/~~divert~~

? omit ?

We are, I am even examining this point in further detail, and will, if necessary, write again about it. Meanwhile,

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

mitigate the bitterness with which the refugees are naturally enough filled.
~~divert the explosive energies of the refugees into constructive channels.~~

As regards III, although UNRWA has encountered inevitable staffing difficulties, our general impression is that its comparatively small international staff have worked devotedly in very difficult circumstances. The fact that they have succeeded in maintaining the health and welfare of the refugees at a standard generally higher than that of the indigenous inhabitants of the Arab countries where they are, speaks for itself. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that the majority of the Agency's staff are drawn from the ranks of the refugees themselves (the figures given in the Agency's Report to the last session of the General Assembly ~~was~~ were 133 international staff and 5,840 locally recruited staff) and that it is these officials who necessarily come into closest direct contact with the refugees.

I hope that these comments will prove helpful to your constituent.

I return Mr Hyde's letter & memorandum. EW 14/8.

There is of course a tendency for Arab hosts, jealous of their independence and resentful of the necessity for UNRWA, to try to interfere in staffing questions, but Mr Hyndo suggests (in para 16 of his memorandum) that they refuse to allow the employment of non-Arab speakers is simplistic, to an exaggeration of Sir A Wright's remarks on this point.

(84615) Wt.34382/152 50,000 12/47 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(85708) Wt.18462/169 150,000 5/48 " "

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

(EE 1824/40) OUTFILE

16th August, 1952.

Thank you for your letter of the 5th August, with which you enclosed a letter and memorandum from one of your constituents, Mr. A. R. Hyde, regarding the Arab refugee problem.

I have read Mr. Hyde's memorandum with great interest and am in general agreement with the views he expresses. In his covering letter he inquires whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to take action on the following matters:-

I "Initiating, if the Jews do not, a suitable unfreezing scheme (for the Arab blocked balances) as the spearhead of a new advance";

II "Precautions in case of a blaze up in the refugee camps";

III "Enabling the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to employ the men and women it most needs in the most needful way".

My comments on these points are as follows:-

With regard to I, I am glad to say that the Israel Government has now expressed its willingness to discuss specific measures for the gradual release of the blocked Arab balances, subject to the overall foreign exchange position of the country; and has agreed that these

/measures

Sir Gordon Touche, M.P.,
Broome Cottage,
Betchworth,
Surrey.

measures should not be directly related to the release of blocked Jewish accounts in Arab countries. This is a useful step forward. Unfortunately, however, the actual operation of settling these accounts will probably take time, since it will first be necessary to trace their owners and then see that the claims submitted are reasonable and justified, Her Majesty's Government are not, as you know, represented on the Palestine Conciliation Commission, with whom the responsibility for these negotiations rests. Nevertheless, we are doing all we can to stimulate the parties concerned to expedite a settlement of this very thorny problem. I doubt, however, whether, in the unfortunate event of the negotiations proving unsuccessful, we should be justified in asking Parliament to vote funds to repay the Arab balance holders, as Mr. Hyde suggests. We have already greatly taxed our straitened financial resources in contributing and offering £13.1 million to the relief and resettlement of the refugees.

As regards II, precautionary measures against the possibility of violent action by the refugees is a matter for which responsibility must rest with the Arab Governments. Her Majesty's Government are, however, doing all they can to assist these Governments to strengthen their security services. In Jordan, where over half the refugees are situated, we assume that the Arab Legion would be able to contain the refugees if they were to attempt to march on Israel. Our aim is to give every possible backing to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's resettlement plans, in the hope that the prospect of obtaining homes and jobs in new lands will mitigate the bitterness with which the refugees are naturally enough now filled.

As regards III, although the United Nations Relief and Works Agency has encountered inevitable staffing difficulties, our general impression is that its comparatively small international staff have worked devotedly in very difficult circumstances. The fact that

/they

they have succeeded in maintaining the health and welfare of the refugees at a standard generally higher than that of the indigenous inhabitants of the Arab countries where they are, speaks for itself. There is of course a tendency for Arab Governments, jealous of their independence and resentful of the necessity for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, to try to interfere in staffing questions, but Mr. Hyde's suggestion (in paragraph 16 of his memorandum) that they refuse to allow the employment of non-Arab speakers of Arabic, is an exaggeration of Sir Henry Knight's remarks on this point. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that the majority of the Agency's staff are drawn from the ranks of the refugees themselves (the figures given in the Agency's Report to the last session of the General Assembly were 133 international staff and 5,840 locally recruited staff) and that it is these officials who necessarily come into closest direct contact with the refugees.

I hope that these comments will prove helpful to your constituent.

I return Mr. Hyde's letter and memorandum.

UNRWA activities to alleviate the plight of Arab refugees in the Middle East; work of voluntary organisations including churches; interest by MPs in HMG contributions to UN plan. Code EE file 1824 (papers 18 - 40). 1952. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1947-1970 FO 371/98505. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom).